

Hear, hear, it comes up on a day that you received your expense checks which means that we have to begin trying to look out for the Legislature. What is coming around to your desks now is a handout, and I received some assistance from the deputy clerk or the Assistant Clerk in getting this information in this form so that you could see what is available right now to other elected officials. And what the text of the proposed amendment would say is that the legislators are entitled to formulate programs like those available to other elected state officers. So, with the language of the Constitution, we are limited to what is available, the types of programs. The amendment itself is not self-executing. We would have to pass legislation. We would have to determine which programs we would be interested in placing the Legislature into and there would be the opportunity to discuss each and every one of those at that time. All this amendment does is put before the public a proposal saying authorize the Legislature to provide for itself what is provided for all other officers. Unfortunately, Nebraska is one of the few remaining states where requirements relative to compensation and wages and benefits for the Legislature will still be found in the Constitution. This amendment does not take any of that away, it simply broadens the reach of the things that the Legislature can do. If a member does not purchase his or her own insurance and pay the full premium, there is no insurance available. Let me say it another way. Being in the Legislature does not entitle you to have life insurance, \$10,000 of which is a base, is available to every other elected state officer and they can buy up to three times the annual salary, insurance of that amount in the same program. Spouse and dependent life insurance coverage can be purchased. There is no health purchase...no health insurance available. We know there are no retirement benefits available. In addition to the state officers, you can see what the county officials and school boards...school board members have available to them. I hope that we will vote to submit this to the public. I don't know what else I need to say in making clear what the proposal does or why I think we should have it, but if you have any questions, I'm prepared to answer them.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Would like to recognize guests of Senator Hillman. Under the south balcony, we have Robert and Marilyn Hesse from Longview, Texas. We have Ken and June Hesse from Melbeta, and Joe Hesse from Clearwater. All of those folks are under the south balcony. If you would stand and be recognized, please. The Chair would recognize