

not a hiring freeze. Maybe that's where...maybe that's where the rub is here and I don't know,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I assume, I, yeah.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...I can't speak for Senator Chambers, but that's what (interruption)...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I can't determine where the rub is, but for each one, but as a general rule if you needed a worker for a month or two or three or perhaps even six months, and you had a hiring freeze but you could hire a worker for six months and save the other six months, probably makes prudent business sense and so...or what are you...a lot of these are for those that are on sick leave. Ninety-two percent, by the way, were for...92 percent represent temporary assignments where employees were holding positions covering for sick or vacation leaves, maternity leaves, interim transition periods and special projects. Now I assume special projects could be the area where you'd probably have the abuse in most of our eyes, but a lot of these are legitimate. If you're running an operation and you have pregnancy leave or if you have extended sick leave, you're going to have to cover that work load some way.

SENATOR ABOUD: So the hiring freeze would only...could I get a copy of the order of that, the order that put us in this current situation?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I assume we could ask the Governor's Office for that, yes.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Fisher would like to announce that there are 30 fourth graders and their sponsor from Shoemaker Elementary in Grand Island, Nebraska. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Brashear a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brashear.