

so, therefore, that's why I put the amendment up and I would hope that you would support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Kristensen a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kristensen, this is a rhetorical question and I know the answer, but for the record, before I say what I want to say on the salary, do you consider the work that these people will do to be very important and essential?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator Chambers, in terms of essential, will the world turn without them?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, no, I don't mean...I meant...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is it...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Is it...is it... is it demanding work that's essential for the system to work and operate better?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I believe it is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we're not talking about featherbed types of jobs here. There will actually be substantive work done and it will require some ability to do it correctly.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, and some ability to withstand public criticism. This is not going to be a popularity contest.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, see, one of the amendments I was going to offer was that we provide a bullet-proof vest and a full suit of armor, but that's a little different. That has to do with conditions of work. And here's why I wanted to get that as a jumping off place. In listening to the discussion here today and knowing the nature of this work, I'm not willing, even though Senator Kristensen is willing to go along with this, to