

the essentials of the amendment that I'm giving to you right now is to delete all of the language that is totally negative about contingent fee contracts, leaves in precautions about contingent fee contracts, but basically in its most pertinent and important sections would allow the execution of a contingency fee contract so long as it was executed by the Governor, and then basically provides that the bill shall be prospective only and shall not apply to any contracts in the past. So we can start sorting out where we want to go with all this. If you don't like contingency fee contracts, period, you should not vote for my amendment and vote for Senator Chambers version of the bill. If you want to have contingent fees in some form, then you can start with my amendment and work from there and we'll be one path or the other. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Abboud, to speak to the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President, colleagues, I'll talk about contingent fee arrangements and I guess my belief as to why the state entered into this type of agreement to begin with. A number of years ago we had a lengthy debate about whether or not to hire a lobbyist for the State of Nebraska. And a number of states do this and I think that it's a good method of having states have their say when we're dealing with the federal government. The Governor wanted a lobbyist and I don't know if in the end he didn't end up with one, but we had a good debate about the whole issue about whether or not, whether we should have a lobbyist. And the reason why he went through the process was because there was some financial involvement that the Legislature had. Money had to be appropriated to hire a lobbyist. Even though the amount was under \$100,000 it still had to have approval before this legislative body. Now we're facing a situation in which not even a department head enters into a multimillion dollar contract and the arrangement that has been established is such that the Legislature may not have ever even discussed this issue if it hadn't been for the introduction of a bill. And the danger I see in that is not an issue between Governor Nelson and Ernie Chambers or Governor Nelson and this Legislature, it's an issue between a Governor and the Legislature in our process that we're going to be establishing into the future in that a Governor can sign into a contingent fee agreement and not require any type of legislative approval, and that's what I see is the danger with what occurred last summer. I can appreciate the understanding that people feel