

effects of not properly looking ahead in our Medicaid and Medicare programs and you can say there are some things different here than with those programs and that would be true, but still the basic premise of discouraging, of encouraging shorter careers goes against the whole principle of equity in terms of expecting the younger generation to take care of the older generation. What's happening in microcosm for example in this bill as I understand it, some will retire in the next year or two under this early retirement provision and this early retirement provision is being funded by increasing the contribution in part of young employees. As I understand it, the people who will be retiring in the next year or two or in the next few years will only be contributing to this new benefit, obviously a minor amount. In fact, if they contribute, if they retire right after the effective date of this bill, they will have contributed almost nothing to the benefit of the early retirement. So that I think is the problem with early retirement. You know it used to be that with police and firemen we used to argue that they should have a different early retirement provision because of the nature of their jobs and back when I was first in the Legislature we argued that that should be down to 55 where everybody else was up to 60 or 65 because they're different from teachers, more stressed. The firemen had more stress, the police had more stress, probably true. But now the...

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR PEUTLER: Although I have not updated myself entirely on their systems, I think they're basically around 55 still. So you can see that when teachers come down to 55, the firemen and police will be in to convince you that they're more stressed jobs deserve even greater consideration on their part. And so this enormous whipsaw continues to foment action and reaction and all in favor of more money in retirement systems. Now depending on how that is done, I have favored it in the past, certainly I favored it for certain groups of teachers who did not benefit from retirement programs back during their working lives. And we actually put some state funds into those, some General Funds, I think as well as adjusting certain systems and that was appropriate in my opinion.

SENATOR HALL: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator