

going to have level dollar payments for 15 years, if that's what the actuary tells us we can likely expect, that's enough. And if we are at the same time able to provide a benefit in the system that our consultants tell us is necessary and I think all of you just very simplistically can understand that this kind of a change is necessary in the systems. If you retire and expect to live for 20 years receiving exactly the same dollars in a retirement plan, what are your prospects? Twenty years after the date you retired you're still receiving your check for 500 or 1,000 dollars. You know what the effects of inflation are going to be on that benefit and you know as you get older that you have additional medical bills, maybe you have other expenses, and at the time when you are feeling the greatest crunch you will have realized that your dollars are purchasing even less unless we can provide something like the provisions of this amendment to LB 700 so that eventually we give you more dollars out of your retirement system. Now, so far as I know, the organizations that would take a direct interest in this amendment and this piece of legislation support it. The school administrators support it. The school boards support it. The teachers support it. It is a responsible change in their systems. The State Patrol supports it. So far as I know the judges support it. I know of no significant opposition to this proposal. Now, I know that isn't exactly the way to evaluate it, just because everybody wants it, but it's a sign that it is a responsible and balanced proposal in the way it makes changes in the system. And I will say again that we designed this proposal to fit within the dollars that thought were available, not the other way around. We didn't define a benefit and then go out looking for the dollars. We realized what the limitations were and designed a proposal that fit within our resources.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Wite' and Bromm.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'm just going to speak in a general way. I'm not going to address the fiscal side because I sent...I think that those of you who are paying attention and who have looked at the handout and so on realize that Senator Wickersham is really on top of the fiscal side of our retirement system. He is thoughtful and smart and he really knows. He's well organized. He's great. Too bad I don't live in Alliance. I could vote for him. But I don't, so