

mentioned maybe 500 or 1,000 a month, it's not any big, big amount of money that they come up with. I still have some...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...darling retired teachers, the really older ones now, some of them get like 25 dollars a month and they were grateful when we got the retirement system started because they could look ahead and see that the younger teachers would come up and have the benefit of it as they went on. So as you're looking at this legislation and looking at the fiscal side of it, I want you to do that, of course, but remember all those faces out there, all those people who take care of us one way or another every day.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Crosby, the point that I was trying to make was that there was not enough funding to go along with the political promise of the original HELP Fund, is what I...that's the way I see it, and whether that's the wrong way to see it or not, that is the way that I see it. It was a political move on the part of the people who voted for it at the time and then they realized they couldn't fund it and so now they searched elsewhere and never could fund it. It was a promise made and a promise not kept, a promise that never should have been made. And as far as people who are working hard, there are also people in the private sector who don't have pensions nearly as good as the ones that we give. Believe me, you start talking to people, when we get to my one-on-one bill that we match \$1.56 for ever \$1.00 that's contributed here, you start asking the businesses in your area, you start asking the self-employed people in your area what kind of pension do you have, and I'll guarantee you if they even have one it's not nearly as good as this one that you are providing here. And we are not the ones providing this. The children, our children, are the ones who are going to be providing this for the future generations and in continuum because it's an automatic that will go on continually, and it's got to stop. It's got to stop sometime, people. I am not a nasty person who wants to take money away from hard-working state employees and state teachers. Believe me, I appreciate everything that they do and they get paid for it and they get a darn good retirement for it right now. All I'm saying is this is 7 million dollars