

and I just, for the moment, want to throw out one thing and ask that Senator Wickersham and members of the committee perhaps respond to it, but on these types of actions, I was very sensitized in 19, I think it was, 83, when Commonwealth went under, and you may recall that there was a large number of people who lost a lot of money and were really hurt and hurt for years, and it has been a nagging, pitiful, almost, kind of experience. Government really did fail, in my opinion, and the bottom line throughout that process was that the Legislature came back and decided to make things right with these people, but the Supreme Court, bottom line, said moral obligations are not enough to allow the state to reimburse people. There has to be a legal right, not just a moral obligation, and on that basis, and with that distinction, those people have been forever denied their claim. These people who potentially may be hurt in this particular situation, the government has made the decision that they should be paid, albeit the fact that perhaps the contract, that there is no contract, and that some kind of theory of estoppel, which is a kind of complicated legal theory, may be there to help them out, but it seems to me that if you bring an action and if the court decides that there is no contract, they have no legal basis for being paid, they may or may not adopt some such, some estoppel theory. On the other hand, they've taken kind of a hard line on these kinds of things in the past, at least they did with Commonwealth, and I am not sure I want to ask them to decide because I am not sure how these people come out if they decide it the wrong way. And so, I am going to be very reluctant to vote for this resolution until at least the committee and Senator Wickersham can tell me how we...how we best assure these people, or how we...or why taking this action now does not put these people at perhaps some greater risk. That's my question.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before we proceed, the Chair would like to recognize two sets of guests. Senator McKenzie announces that she has 50 fourth graders from the Aurora Public Schools in Aurora, in the south balcony. They are with their teachers. And in addition to that, in the north balcony, Senator Hartnett would like to announce that he has guests, 48 students from Mission Middle School in Bellevue. Would you all please rise and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting. Mr. Clerk, do I understand there is a priority motion?