

full...as a full extent as those who bring the action and prosecute the case. There may be some little advantage there, but the advantage of framing the issue combined with whatever small savings there may be to me does not justify us being in the moral position of asking the courts to tell us that we cannot pay these people. Again, I ask for more justification on what we're doing here, and I haven't heard it, frankly. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I just rise briefly to...I guess I actually oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. I understand his good intent and I'm tempted to look at that. However, I feel that at this point we've come, the decision needs to be made, the body properly makes that decision. I don't know if a third party, considering the potential cost and things like that, is really worth the issue, really worth spending at this point when ultimately I think the decision is ours. I know it's difficult. I spent quite a few sleepless nights, in fact, in March as we came to this decision because I think we have a moral obligation. I think some way we have to have some finality to this decision. One of my concerns that hasn't been spoken about and I need someone else that's got more expertise in this area than I, is the statute of limitations as to how long this could go on. If we, as I said earlier, if we were home free in two or three years or even perhaps a little longer, I would be more inclined to take the gamble because in a lot of ways that's what it is, is a risk. But it is my understanding this could be open for quite a long time. And it only takes one person ten years from now perhaps to question what was done, and it may be a desperate school district. Considering what we are doing in other areas with our other bills, may look like a few thousand dollars is a desperate need of theirs no matter what their good intent would challenge what has been done a few years ago in order to properly recover some money that they felt had been misspent or at least the uncertainty was there that they should have spent it. And if we would actually wait that long before something would happen, it appears to me that the costs would then be enormous as we attempt to go back and make right perhaps or perhaps it would be affirmed what we were doing. I recognize that. It just seems like it's, in spite of what some of the potential beneficiaries