

comes up, are we going to have to go through all this again? We're going to ask for an Attorney General's Opinion, disagree with it, and go to the Supreme Court? Is that how we're going to handle any mistakes in these retirement systems? I don't want to do that. I say we found out that there was a problem, we asked for an Attorney General's Opinion, he gave us the opinion that, yes, they had a contractual right, reliance argument here that these individuals relied on us for their retirement, paid into it. I say that's what we should back, not saying we have to have some type of clarity argument here to go to the Supreme Court to reaffirm that. And if by some chance, and it's a pretty good chance, the Supreme Court doesn't just say, yes, you have to continue, these people have contractual rights here established under all of these areas, you have to continue to pay these people, if the Supreme Court decides there are any other issues involved it could change our entire retirement systems in the state of Nebraska according to whatever their determinations were. It could cause all 600 of these people to have to go into a courtroom...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...and defend individually, on an individual basis, their right to receive their retirement. It is a mammoth issue here and so much to grasp at this late hour and I understand all of that. But I would urge you, please, to think this over very carefully because these retirement issues that the Legislature has a responsibility for are very serious and affect a number of people in this state as we all know. And these 600 people do not want to, and I know I can't speak for all of them, I haven't talked to everyone, but all of the people who have contacted me have said, do not do this. Do not go forward with this resolution. This is their pensions, their livelihoods, the way that they pay their bills. Everyone is satisfied. Why should we go to court just to have them reaffirm what we're already doing, like that's some kind of reassurance? We have all the reassurance we need.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Witek. Before we continue, Senator Cudaback does have another set of guests in the north balcony, sixth grade students from Sumner-Eddyville-Miller School and their teacher. Would you all please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. Mr. Clerk.