

a point that we didn't get an opportunity to discuss but has been brought up in private conversations anyway with members of the Attorney General's Office. And they spent a lot of time trying to make me understand some of these things and I have to give them credit for that. But this was one of the issues that I had a hard time understanding, was whose side then, if we're instructing the Attorney General, whose side are you on? Whose side do you go to court...in front of the Supreme Court for and do you go as the state and the state employees or how actually is this done? I'm not sure that's been made clear. So I will support Senator Beutler's...in fact, I'm sure from my conversations that it has not been made clear. So I will support Senator Beutler's amendment on the chance that I, too, believe, despite all of my excellent arguing here, that this resolution has a good chance of passing. And I think we should make that clear that we would like the Attorney General to try to resolve this issue in favor of the employees, the people who have counted on us for years and years and the retirees and the people who have worked hard for the state and deserve and depended on their retirement. And that's who I want them to defend because they're scared. They're very scared and this resolution has them again very upset and this has been an ongoing issue of almost a year's time. And if we let this go out of this body, there's some more uncertainty out there for who knows how long it will be before this issue is resolved. So I think it's very responsible and I will be voting for Senator Beutler's amendment. It's very responsible to make it clear that I personally want this resolved. Although I will be voting against 343, just this discussion alone will make it clear that I personally will be voting for the Attorney General when he does...if he goes to the Supreme Court to try to I'm really not sure if you try to think this thing through how it will occur. I'm not sure anybody does. But if that happens, I want them, the people who depended on us, the state of Nebraska and the Legislature, to be responsible with their retirement money and their retirement plans that we will make sure that our Attorney General, and I'm sure he will, just based on his opinion and the reading of his letters back and forth to the Retirement Committee, that he already intends to make sure that they continue with their retirement plans and that they continue to receive that retirement as they have planned to from the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Pirsch on