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people in this state do not think that this is a low tax state. I am not going to support a bill or an amendment that increases state taxes. In fact, we need to do everything we can to decrease state taxes. Let's talk about this in personal terms. My wife works for AT & T. She's not at the top of the organizational chart, she's not even in the middle, she's somewhere toward the bottom. Does she get stock options? She does, she does, not a lot, we're not going to get rich off those stock options, not even if she works there for 40 years are we going to get rich off those stock options. But she gets them, it affects us, and we're not rich. My friend, Senator Quandahl, his wife works for ConAgra. I don't know if she gets stock options. I'm guessing she does. Are they going to get rich off those stock options? No, but this provision is important. It's a little bit of a tax haven, a little bit of a savings for middle class people. Senator Quandahl is not rich, I'm not rich, but this affects us. My friend, Robynn Tysver, reports for the World-Herald. I know the World-Herald. and my friend, Leslie Reed, they get stock options at the World-Herald. I bet if you ask those two women, are you rich? They would say, absolutely not. They're not rich, as far as I know, but they get stock options. The provision as it's written in law, before the Wickersham change, affects them, helps them. It's not rich people; it's middle class people. My friend Senator Preister owns a company. If he chose to give...a small company. If he chose to give his employees stock options, stock in that company, this provision would affect those employees. This is not rich people we're talking about. This is regular, average Nebraskans we're talking about. And as far as little companies go, company I'm affiliated with in Elkhorn, Tagge Rutherford Financial Group, just came out with a stock plan. They may give me some stock. As general counsel, I don't get paid. You know what the stock would be worth when they gave it to me? Zero. The only time it would be worth anything is if the company sells or if the company goes public, neither of which is likely to happen. But if we change this provision it's even less useful for any of us to own stock. This is not a fat cat versus poor person argument here. This is average Nebraskans, and we need to defeat this amendment and defeat this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham.