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Kopplin, thank you for your comments as well. And I just want to reiterate that this is a practice done by school districts across the state. It's a cost-saving tool for school districts. I think Senator Kopplin very eloquently, by giving examples, indicated to us exactly how much a school district can save with this tool that is available to them. And what LB 329 is attempting to do is to make clear that these separation payments cannot be considered compensation. In particular, on page 10 of the green copy, line 21, it explicitly indicates that employer contributions made for the purposes of separation payments made at retirement and early retirement inducements as provided in this section, that they are not to be considered compensation for purposes of a retirement benefit calculation. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Stuhr, yours is the last light, if you wish to speak. Or do you wish to close?

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. I believe that I will use this as my closing, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may do so if you care to. You are closing.

SENATOR STUHR: I have appreciated...thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I have appreciated this discussion. I do want to point out that LB 329 does not create for the first time this practice of providing retirement inducement or buy-out payments. It was our point that we wanted to make some clarification. It does propose explicit language in the section that payments are not used for purposes other than what they were originally intended, such as providing a separate retirement benefit. As been pointed out before, it would not count as compensation toward the calculation of retirement benefits. And I think that this is important. Currently, up to 16 school districts across the state are utilizing this particular plan. And I do have a list of those if anyone is interested. And there are certain early retirement provisions, and those were stated before, that an employee who has completed 35 years of credible service may retire at any age, and an