TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 18, 2005 LB 478

services that a base has, and so the defense contracting industry, which we've added to significantly since the STRATCOM decision to move jobs here, the stability of employment for those defense contractors is very important. I think that this bill offers a lot of challenges, more than the previous bill that we were discussing, in terms of fairness. But most other states have made policy decisions about military personnel. We do a lot of things for military personnel that we don't do for other kinds of industries, because those people sacrifice so much for the country, and during the time that they serve, their life situation is not, even apart from war and things like that, is not entirely stable. And so a lot of states have been quite generous from the standpoint of keeping them or attracting them to the state, but also in an appreciation of the service that's been provided.

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: And I think that this is an issue that we need to look at. It is something that when we first started getting letters about that, about it, when I first came into office, I was totally unsympathetic to the situation. I've done a lot of research. I've done research with some of the defense industry executives about what difficulty they have in attracting the workers that they need. If we can point to one thing that has helped us develop our technology in the state of Nebraska, it is the spin-off of Offutt and the spin-off of the defense contractors, the number of people who contribute to our economy in a myriad of ways. And I think that with the committee amendment, we have narrowed the...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...impact of this in a way that makes it much more defensible. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Landis, your light is on next.