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LB 478

industry and the Nebraska university system; creation of jobs to keep youth in Nebraska in the state following graduation from the university system. Senator Pederson recently mentioned an out-migration of Nebraska's youth during a recent meeting with university Regents. Governor Heineman was quoted by the Omaha World-Herald as stating, his State and (sic) the State Address, that among state's biggest challenges is a population that is stable but aging. To prosper, he said, the state must expand its economy and establish more education and job opportunities to attract and attain young people. When we talk about these jobs, we are talking about very technical jobs that the average citizens cannot or are not qualified for. They also are not qualified because they require security clearances. This amendment addresses the issue of the need of these jobs to be filled. With the realignment, we received Space Command a few years ago from Colorado Springs. Because these jobs have been unable to be filled and because we do not have the support industry in place, they have already started deploying troops back to Colorado Springs, which does affect the state of Nebraska as a whole economically. We lose those people's jobs, their income, the property taxes they pay if they live off base.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CORNETT: While I...again, while I want to reiterate that, yes, I support LB 478 and I do plan on reintroducing it again in its original form, the committee amendment is what the Revenue Committee felt the state could afford, and addresses an immediate need that we have this year, and I encourage you to support the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Cornett. Senator Erdman, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I'm in the process of gathering the details of what the committee amendment does, and I think I understand a little bit about Senator Smith's comments, and I'm getting a better understanding of Senator Redfield's position. As I understand...and maybe Senator Cornett would yield to a couple questions so that I can be clear.