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FLOOR DEBATE

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can't do that is the representation that we received, and this was received secondhand, was that we could not make direct access to federal security clearance as a distinguishing characteristic by federal law. Now, we did not do the legislation...we did not do the legal analysis of that. We accepted the legal analysis of defense contractors who said, in fact, I know what you want to get to, but you can't get there because federal law doesn't let you go there. So Senator Chambers is right. There is nothing in this law that says it...that the employee only gets this if they have security clearance, but by the way, nobody ever said that on the floor. So this is not a revelation. In fact, it was clearly stated at the time this was described on the floor at the time. However, as close as we can get is to make reference to a narrow range of security-based defense contractors. If you happen to work for one of them, if you happen to be a military retired person with a pension, if you happen to make more than \$40,000, then your military pension starts getting a tax break on a two-to-one basis for the income that you make more than \$40,000. And if there's a groundskeeper that does not have a security clearance that is working for one of these defense contractors and he's making \$60,000, that between \$40,000 and \$60,000, he's getting on a two-for-one basis a tax exemption for the military pension he has for a full-time retired. That is a fuller description but that is simply consistent with the description that this body has been given at every stage of our discussion so far. However, the groundskeeper does exacerbate exactly, I think, the point that Senator Chambers was driving at, and that is, it is not tied to security clearances, but then, you were told that. And it doesn't mean that you are a security clearance person doing this work itself, but that you are an employee of this kind of company, because it's not aimed at the people so much as it is aimed at the company, to create a body or pool of people able to do, not just the groundskeeping at \$40,000-plus, but the kind of work for which they would pay \$60,000, \$80,000 or \$100,000.

SENATOR CUDABACK SPEAKING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.