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SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Redfield has a very interesting proposal here. And I think it's appropriate to discuss comparisons. I really do. I was discussing with Senator Redfield yesterday the reality that I face in my own family. My father is a county commissioner. He receives health insurance. And actually, his salary is more than mine. And some have commented to me that I should have probably ran for that office, either for their own opinions here, or for the reality of the salary. But here's what I find interesting. In the state of Nebraska, the counties--and this is just total spending--counties across the state of Nebraska spend \$5.45 million annually on their own salaries, \$5.5 million. We spend 300-and-some thousand, because our budgets...or, our appropriation is \$632,000 over two years. So to compare apples and apples, it's 10.5...or, excuse me, \$10.9 million in salaries to those elected officials. They work hard, they flat-out do. The other...another comparison. There are two-thirds of the counties in the state of Nebraska pay either at or above the \$12,000 salary for their county commissioners or supervisors; one-third pay less. Of those one-third that pay less, only two counties do not provide health insurance benefits to their elected officials, as far as county commissioners; only two. So if you compare...if it's a family, even if it's an individual policy with other benefits, you're probably getting pretty close. If you're one of these counties that's at \$5,000-\$6,000 and has an insurance policy, you're looking at a pretty good amount of benefit there as well. So is it fair that we come down here and make \$12,000 a year? Probably not. Are we going to come down here if it is \$12,000 a year? We will. Because there's 49 of us here, there's always been contested elections, unless you're from Norfolk. That's going to be a reality of this process. And I don't know what Senator Flood did to earn that. But I think the reality is, is that the public respects us when we ask for a specific amount. I think that's what's been successful in the past. And Senator Beutler has other ideas. Senator Stuhr got one adopted yesterday. And I think Senator Landis' comments were accurate yesterday. It has to be the number. It has to be on the ballot. And I think the public expects us to ask when that happens. And the reason is, is that we won't set our own salary. Senator Redfield is exactly right. We shouldn't get