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of the specialties they have. The only thing is, and I think they probably are worth more money when some of these contractors are hiring them, but I still can't understand why the contractors, if...any other type of expertise that someone has and they want that expertise, they pay accordingly, why they can't pay that. I know there's an answer for that and I think Senator Cornett could probably give me that answer. But the thing is, if we could give this benefit to all veterans, all veterans, if we could afford to do that I would go for that, because I think that this is the guy that's over there shooting the guns and he's in the trenches, et cetera, just...not just these who have these special clearances. But I know we can't afford to do that so, therefore, I just don't think we should single this group out. And I agree with Senator Pederson. If you open the gate, where do you close it? Because there's expertise in other fields where there's a limited number of people, and so we'll give them...we'll have to give them a tax break. And that's why I feel this way. And, Senator Cornett, I commend you for all the effort you put in this, and I know you're doing this for a real good reason and you've got some very good reasons of your own, but those are the reasons I do object. So I'll give Senator Cornett a little of my time to answer that one question I had.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cornett.

SENATOR CORNETT: Yes, Senator Engel, Senator Chambers asked that question last year and I was going to address it this morning. I just hadn't gotten a chance to yet. The reason that they cannot pay the people in this field more in the state of Nebraska than they can in other states to attract them is from the states that have exemption is these contracts and salary amounts are usually set by the federal government. So the companies have to work on a level playing field salarywise among the states that they are in, and then the states are the ones that offer the exemption to attract the military to their state to fill these positions and grow their industry and also grow their economy. Secondly, in regards to your feelings on the exemption in regards to military, I would like to see an overall exemption for retired military, and I have that bill in committee again this year. If it comes out again in