

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

February 24, 2006 LB 1019

in Omaha. That, in a sense, is what Mister...or, that is exactly what Mr. Smith had said, the executive director of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System. Again, I'm not asking for an additional contribution to be made to the Omaha teachers that isn't provided for...to the state teachers. I think that we need to do all we can to make sure that our teachers...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...stay in the job, that their pay is attractive, that their retirement benefits are attractive, and this amendment simply is parity. If we give a teacher...if we make a retirement fund of a teacher that teaches for the state of Nebraska whole, we should do the same for the other retirement system. It's just a matter of equity. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. (Doctor of the day introduced.) On with discussion of the Bourne amendment. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Again, I stand in opposition of this amendment. We all, as I stated earlier...and Senator Bourne was talking about equity, we have two different systems in the state of Nebraska. All of the other teachers outside of the Omaha Public district are in the school state retirement system. Those teachers in the Omaha district are...have chosen to be in their own retirement system. As I stated earlier, this system, the employees pay 6.5 percent, compared to the other teachers across the state that pay 7.25 percent, and actually that has increased this last year to 7.89 percent. OPS handles their own investments. They are responsible for the returns on their investments. OPS also makes and determines what benefits their teachers shall receive. Right now, their benefits are greater than what the other members of the state school retirement system. They have a medical COLA that our teachers do not have. So talking about parity, there really isn't any parity. First of all, the state teachers are paying more into the fund; they have less benefits. They do...the Omaha Public Schools do