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SENATOR STUHR: And we had a study this summer to look at merging the OPS system with our state system because there has been a number of people asking why do we have two systems in the state. But the OPS system is very reluctant. They say they are very efficient, that they would...they want to continue to be on their own. So I think it's an...it's not appropriate at this time, then, to appropriate money to a system that is separate...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR STUHR: ...from the state system.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Before we go on, to celebrate Senator Kruse's birthday, the treats are being handed out. Let's applaud him--Senator, something about 50--for your birthday. Maybe that was when my brother and he graduated from college. I don't know. Anyway, Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Erdman, Wehrbein, Synowiecki, and Bourne.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I'm standing a little bit neutral on this bill at this point because I...or this amendment, because I really don't know that much about it. We haven't heard about it before. My feeling is that we have two separate systems, both investing in different plans, dealing with different kinds of money at all times, and it would seem to me that they want to be separate, we should keep them separate. Now, I don't want to...I understand the feeling that we should treat all the teachers the same, so I need some time to think about this. I don't see anything really pressing about this amendment that it has to be added and done this year. So for that reason, I'm probably going to oppose this. I do believe they are separate systems, separate investments, separate governments, and probably that's the way it should continue. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Further discussion? Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Wehrbein and others. Is Senator Erdman on the...yes.