

Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Wesely, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, again what I am encouraging you to do, I think there is a division in this body between those that, like I feel, are very concerned about early retirement benefits and their cost, and those who feel committed to an improvement in early retirement for teachers. I'm trying to find that middle ground. I, frankly, don't think the Pappas amendment, at 3 percent, is a middle ground. If you look at that you'll see that right now actuarially we reduce the benefit at 60 down to 58 percent. The Rule of 90 would have us up at 100 percent, and they've gone down to 85 percent. So that is a 15 percent drop, but actually, actuarially it should go down 42 percent. That is really not exactly middle ground. But I am trying to do that. If you look at it, we have a very generous plan from 62 and older, that's 95, 90, and 85 percent reduction. That is better than what social security provides, but it is still better than what the 3 percent is, and I think it is a reasonable compromise. To make up the difference, if those savings that are being claimed for salaries, by getting the older teacher out at a higher salary and a younger teacher in at a lower salary, that can be then directed in and used to supplement the benefits and make it more attractive if they actually have those savings that they are claiming. So there is no reason why an improvement like this will not actually end up working, will not actually provide for improvement in the plan that is adequate to then use the savings from the salaries, to then be able to have these people that need to move on to other things and bring in the younger teachers. So I think it is a reasonable compromise, and I'd ask your support for it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to the...what is it, Wesely amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are on Select so it takes 25 votes. Have you all voted? If you care to vote let's do it so we can move on, or move back, or whatever way we're going to move. Senator Wesely. Call of the house has been called. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.