

of a retirement system. Senator Haberman and myself and a number of people that have spoke on the particular bill I think agree that retirement systems are good, but we feel that the idea of mandating the system on these local political subdivisions is wrong. The idea of mandating isn't all that foreign to what we've been discussing in this Legislature this past year. We've discussed mandating of consolidation of school districts, LB 662. Some people are in favor of that, some people are against it, but it's not foreign. We've discussed the idea. We spent a great deal of time discussing seat belts where the federal government comes in and says, you either adopt this approach or there is going to be repercussions from it. So the idea of mandating isn't all that foreign to us in the body. But I think in a lot of times it just isn't all that good when we're requiring them to take a particular approach. And it's interesting because a lot of times when we discuss mandating approaches or mandating laws on these local political subdivisions they raise all kinds of stink about it and they say, we don't want to be controlled by the Legislature. When it comes to open meeting laws they will say, we don't want any sort of controls placed upon us, but in other instances it is all right. It's all right when it's to their benefit when they don't have to take the heat for it and the only people that are going to take the heat for this particular bill are the 49 senators in this body. We're going to be the ones that they are going to be talking about out in Grant County, out in Chase County, out in Hays County. They are going to say, why is that Legislature mandating upon us? Why are they forcing us to adopt this particular program that is going to increase our property taxes? Those county officials aren't going to catch the heat for it, those county supervisors. It is going to be the Legislature and the state senators and I think it's just plain stupid to be doing this. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, would you like to close, please. We were speaking on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll just thank you all for your support for the bill. I think you know how important it is that we finally allow these people a retirement plan contrary to Senator Haberman's and Senator Abboud's position. This is not out of the ordinary. What is out of the ordinary is not to do this. All the other systems are mandated. It's time we made this one mandated