

public counsel is now on the side of the employee. The public counsel now has the duty to investigate an allegation that the employee has been fired, dismissed or disciplined because of the filing of allegation of wrongdoing. So the public counsel is now brought in on the side of the employee. So I don't see it as a David and Goliath situation at all. It is a situation where we are giving a lot more rights to the employees, and that is fine. But let's take a medium-size step instead of a huge step and see how it works because this is the first time that we are doing this in the State of Nebraska. I would ask the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, shall the bill be returned for an amendment? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Beutler, three are excused. We are voting on the return of the bill. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. I'd ask for everybody to check in and record their presence and take call in votes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right. Please record your presence. Senator Eret, Senator Withem and Senator Marsh are the three excused. We are looking for Senator Hannibal, Senator Baack, Senator Eret, Senator Nelson, Senator Lynch, Senator Rod Johnson, Senator Lowell Johnson, Senator Peterson, Senator Sieck, Senator Warner. Senator Warner, would you record your presence please. Call in votes are authorized. We are voting on the return of the bill. There is a request for a roll call? All right. Everyone is here. Mr. Clerk. The question is, shall the bill be returned for the Beutler amendment? Mr. Clerk. Reverse order has been requested.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 2362 of the Legislative Journal.) 27 ayes, 17 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill is returned. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think you understand the amendment. We have so many things, I don't want to give another long speech on it or be involved in another long debate on it. If there are other speakers I will respond, otherwise I would just ask for the adoption of the amendment.