

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers first, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, may I introduce some guests that have been here a little while, please, before you begin? Senator Hall has some guests in the south balcony. There eight eighth graders from Marrs Junior High School in Omaha, accompanied by their teachers. Would you folks stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us. Thank you, Senator Vickers, for the pleasure.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. This bill is a bill that, I think, has significant impact, one that is an important piece of legislation, one that has been very difficult for Senator Landis and Senator Wesely to get to this point. Quite frankly, I think it ought to be broader than it is. But it applies only to state employees. I think there is some misunderstanding that this might apply to private employees, and it certainly doesn't. It doesn't even apply to political subdivision employees. I happen to think that it should. But let me tell you as an individual that has had some experience with this type of a situation where an employee of a section of government, in the experience that I had it was with a political subdivision. This employee knew there were some things happening that he thought was somewhat wrong. He came to me and he said, you know there are some things going on here that is costing the people of the State of Nebraska quite a few dollars, and we ought not be doing the things we are doing, and I ought not be asked to do the things that I am doing, but I'm afraid to go to my employer, I'm afraid to go to my supervisors because I think if I do they will take action against me. So he laid out the situation to me. But somehow his employers found out about it anyhow. This individual was in a supervisor position. He wound up being transferred, put in an office with absolutely nothing to do, in another part of the state. His responsibilities were taken away from him that he had before. In the end he wound up quitting, and there is a long story behind it. But the point is that as one individual who has the guts to stand up and say you know there is something wrong going on here, it is very difficult for that individual then to be put in the position that Senator Beutler would put them in and that is to say that,