

you develop cancer or you got some problem and you decide you don't want to be an employee anymore, you want to retire instead, we're going to hold your money until you're 60 before we let you even start taking it out at a reduced benefit. And I think you need to recognize that we are talking about an actuarially sound system that we are reducing the benefits considerably and that is one of the reasons that it is difficult to put an A bill too on these bills because who knows how many people are going to make that determination? How many people are going to give up that larger amount they might have got if they had stayed another five or ten years? I have no problem with saying that since it is your money, since we're going to reduce the amounts that you get as far as the annuity is concerned or whatever, your payments, that we'll reduce that amount and let you go ahead and start drawing it. Now along with that as brought out by Senator Abboud, there are some other suggestions coming along that's going to say that if you have served a certain length of time and jumped through a certain number of hoops that we'll let you draw it all out, but it's for teachers, not state employees, so they're two separate issues. Also I would remind you Senator Johnson made the point that he is willing to start doing these kinds of things if we have some uniformity to it. As a matter of fact, that is an attempt on the Retirement Systems Committee to begin that direction. I would remind Senator Johnson and others that we allow early retirement right now for some state employees. They happen to wear a blue uniform and they happen to drive cars with little cherries on top and we allow that to happen right now. They are state employees. They might perform a different function. They might do a different job and there might be some good arguments made saying that at a certain time maybe we'd ought to encourage people to retire in that particular profession, but the fact is, if you want conformity, then the amendment as offered by the committee has more conformity to it because we are treating other state employees, beginning to treat them, a little bit the same way. I urge you to reject the Johnson amendment because I believe it is appropriate once you've reached that age of 55 to allow people to begin to take out some of their money at a reduced amount.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: Also I want to remind you that it is not exactly uniform as at the present time for the retirement