

the personal concerns of the staff members that we are working with. We can deal with those personal concerns as they relate to the students whose education and future we are impacting. I don't believe that out of all the other states that have this it has ruined them financially. I do not believe that it would happen to the State of Nebraska and I think the benefits are great. I support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, let me just make a couple of brief remarks because I have already spoken on this issue once, but I wanted to get some financial figures together to show the extraordinary property tax savings that can accrue some of the K-12 school districts in this state, not just the districts in Omaha, but Hastings and Kearney and the larger districts along the Platte River. In District 66 which is an excellent high-paying school system in Omaha with a lot of quality teachers that are in their fifties and sixties the savings would be substantial and the reason I am interested in District 66, of course, is because about half of my legislative district is in District 66 and about half of my constituents pay property taxes to District 66. Now, let me give you an example of the tax savings, the property tax savings of District 66 if this would pass. Let's say that 20 60-year-old teachers take advantage of this. Now the net salary paid to those 20 60-year-old teachers would be \$600,000. If they were replaced by 20 new teachers at \$15,000 each rather than \$30,000 each, why the net cost would be \$300,000 for those new teachers. So the first year of operation of this, assuming 20 teachers take advantage of it, would be a property tax savings of \$300,000 to a relatively small school district in the larger scheme of things in the State of Nebraska. So when we talk about cost, when we talk about the cost of the state retirement system or the cost of the teachers retirement system, we can't lose sight of the fact that the immediate up-front property tax savings are going to be substantial and that's why for years now the District 66 board has been so interested in implementing this. And again, I think, and I think this is a misconception that doesn't need correcting because it has been corrected so many times, but this is going to apply only to teachers who voluntarily decide to participate, who choose for reasons of their own to retire, and I just don't