

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland. The question has been called. There are a number of lights on. Do I see five hands for the calling of the question? I do. The question is, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The motion is to cease debate on the amendment to the committee amendment of LB 988. Please record your vote. The motion is to cease debate on the issue before us. Please record your vote? Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate is closed. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, once again the amendment has the effect of restoring basically the \$65,000 for the eight service department employees. Let me be quite clear in that I do not want to be interpreted as indicating that I think the Appropriations Committee made a mistake. The intent of my prior remarks was to simply indicate to you that there were differing points of view and to try to describe some of those differing points of view and how they may have arisen. To the extent that LB 13 did not include enough money for all the people that were envisioned to be incorporated into the state system, then I accept part of the blame also, if that is the case and if that was part of why the Appropriations Committee took the action that they did. In any event, the point I was trying to make is that the confusion is within our own system and has to do with the language of LB 13 and internal matters and that the eight people that are involved in this particular situation should not suffer because of the way this is played out. I agree very strongly that the probation committee system erred. At least, in a political sense they erred very grievously in what they did. But if you want to send them a message, I don't think this is the way to send them a message. There are a number of ways to send them a message and my guess would be that the message will be sent this session. So let us go about giving the message to the people who should get the message and not to innocent people. And I would point out to you that under the first in-first out system, which is the hiring and firing system for the state system, that in the event we did not restore this money, it wouldn't be