

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR BARRETT: Motion is carried, debate ceases. Senator Wesely, to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, I think Senator Abboud doesn't fully understand what we are talking about here. I appreciate him trying to clarify, but I think he didn't help the matter that much. Let me tell you what I see as happening right now. We've had a policy in this state to not allow lump sum. I support that policy. The Attorney General said that is age discrimination. The PERB board said, he's our attorney, we're going to go along with him. We got them to delay that until February 1, but now they've gone ahead and implemented it, and I would be happy to go down to 25 percent, or something you know, but I sat down with the employees and, rather than have a big fight here, they agreed not to fight taking away their full lump sum. They want all of it. They want all of it. And they feel they've got the upper hand now because that is the present policy. But they said, we'll go with 50 percent and take that and we'll live with it. So we go from 100 percent to 50 percent. Now if...I would ask you to vote for this amendment and then if you...if Senator Abboud and others want to come with a lower figure, that is fine. But this is not giving them a benefit that they don't now have. They've got it. This is reducing the benefit from 100 percent to 50 percent. That is why I'm asking your support. No, I hope I'm not having a hard time selling you because I am trying to restrict the ability to get a lump sum. I want to make that very clear. I'm not giving them the ability, they've got it. I'm trying to take it away, at least half of it. So that is what I'm asking you for. If you want to go further than that, and go back to the other plan, that is fine. I don't oppose that whatsoever. But at this point, this is what I've worked out with the public employees and ask that at least we go that far. Senator Harris would like to have some time as well. What I'm saying is let's take this step, and then if you want to deal with it further I'd be willing to talk to you about it. I don't like the situation, but this improves it. So I ask your support for the amendment. Senator Harris.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Harris, 2.50.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I