

to do it. I urge you to adopt the Pappas amendment. I'd like to give the rest of my time to Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I would also rise to support the Pappas amendment. Briefly, Mr. President, let me just make a couple of points. As I understand it even if we adopt this and put it in Nebraska law, we will still be down at the bottom of the scale, 49th among the states in terms of early retirement benefits we accord our public school teachers. The Omaha public school system has had this system in effect for three years now. The State of South Dakota has had a system similar to this in effect since at least 1978, and we have not seen adverse consequences by any means. Finally, I represent...half of my legislative district is in a K-12 school system, the elected board of which has, for three years, been asking me to support this proposal. Now a lot of arguments were made about the burden on the taxpayers. As I understand this amendment, aside from the school of the deaf and the school of the blind at the state level, this will not impose any additional tax obligation on the state taxpayers. Any additional tax obligation, if any over and above the savings, will be picked up by the school district taxpayers. Now my school districts have elected board members who were charged with looking out for their taxpayers. My school system, one of them already has it, and the other one has, for many years the board has been coming and saying, please let us do this, it is in the best interests of our district, we can save tax dollars, it is better for our teachers, and I'm going to defer to their judgement on this because they've been elected by my constituents, just as I have, they are saying it is good for the system, they want us to authorize them to do it. On those grounds, as well as others that have been given, I think we should support this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is...the question is the adoption of the Pappas amendment to the Wesely amendment. It requires 25 votes since we are on Select. Roll call has been requested in reverse order. Mr. Clerk.