

dollars, in this one program, then that is your view. But I think maybe it is more costly not to do it, not to give the option, not to try to retain the teachers that we've educated. So I think maybe the cost is on the other side, even though it is a big dollar figure. I would urge you to support Senator Pappas.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, please, then Senator Harris.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to oppose the Wesely amendment as it now stands. Senator Morehead said that pretty much that teachers look at benefits. I don't disagree with that, but I would think that a young teacher, coming out of college, would be more interested in the bottom line, and the bottom line being what am I going to take home in my pay check. I've not spoken to this issue, but I don't think that if you were to talk to newly oiled teachers that they would be all that interested, at age 22 or 23, about their retirement. There has been the same argument made that these people are going to leave the profession. Well if they are going to leave the profession at age 45, or 35, or 50, they are also going to be interested in the retirement because they are going to go into a different field where they are going to be looking at other areas of interests where they are going to be developing toward their retirement, their own retirement plan, and this basically will probably be supplemental. Argument has been made that it costs a lot of money. That is true, I agree with that. Argument has been made that we need to spend more money on education. I probably don't disagree with that. But I would argue that the money being spent here is not on education. The money that we are going to be looking at, down the road, is being spent on retirement. I don't think that is the right direction to be spending the money. I would urge the body to reject the Wesely amendment at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, please. Senator Harris, did you call the question?

SENATOR HARRIS: No.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You give your time to Senator Pappas?

SENATOR HARRIS: No. (Laughter.)