

current law. And so it would allow us, as a state, to treat our employees the way many major employers and some smaller employers treat their employees, and to reward them for the patriotic thing they have done, which is to join the reserves, and to offer themselves up as citizen defenders of this country. And I would, therefore, ask the body to move the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. I will now recognize senators who wish to address the Horgan amendment. Senator Nelson, would you like to address this amendment?

SENATOR NELSON: I originally had my light on to mention in Senator Conway's statements, that also, by declaring the Persian Gulf War, that does affect some retirement benefits, too, maybe down the road at a future time, so I guess I just wanted that in the record, and I didn't hear that mentioned. As long as I am speaking, I have real mixed emotions in our...I know that Senator Horgan means well, good intentions, but I am wondering that if we start to do this on state employees, and I have had this brought to my attention several times, where do we start and where do we stop? I know that there are some in the lower pay grades, as you say, that did take a loss. I probably find that same thing in nearly every industry and nearly every part of life, and they are to be commended, and I know it is a hardship on their family, but I am wondering if we are starting the wrong precedence by spelling out state employees only. Then others will say, when am I going to come in on it, when am I going to get my share, and I really have a problem starting down this road. Maybe we only have 61 employees, and I admire the ones that went in the service that maybe could draw more money in the military than they could serving, but I just have mixed emotions on this right now, that if we are really setting the right precedence, and that we also know that there are many private industries and maybe private individuals and people who are self-employed cannot do this, and it is their tax dollars that are paying for this, too. So I do have a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I support the amendment offered by Senator Horgan, as well as the bill being offered by Senator Horgan, LB 720. I would wonder if Senator Horgan would yield to a question.