

SENATOR HORGAN: Certainly.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Horgan, does this...I was reading through the bill and I think it really deals with a problem of helping the small number of individuals that served our country in the Persian Gulf that needed to receive some additional compensation for the sacrifice that they made. Is there anything in the bill that provides for job security upon their return back to service in the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR HORGAN: No, Senator Abboud, there is not, although they are already protected under federal law when they are called up from a reservist status, that their jobs have to be...that employment has to be provided back to them when they return by federal law.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, thank you. That was my only concern. I thought it might need an amendment to provide for this job security for individuals coming back. I think the number is relatively small that would be affected by this bill, but I think it is the least that the State of Nebraska can do for these individuals that risked their lives fighting for our country.

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

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to 720, and let me give you some of the committee discussion as we were working 720 in its original form, and why we felt it really wasn't necessary at the time, or was, basically, unworkable. LB 720 in the form talked about supplementing an individual's financial status and keeping that person whole during a time of being called up. What we found in the discussion was in many cases what do we count as their salary. Many persons who were called into active duty have a specific salary based upon their rank and the years of service, and that is their salary, but, in many cases, because of the relocation costs, they get paid for that. In some cases, they get combat pay. What is it we should count as their pay and compare that against their state salaries? What we found in most cases was that most of the individuals who were called up, actually their total financial wherewithal was better off while they were in the service than what they actually were getting as their state pay. Many of these people, there was little or no difference, and we got into quite a discussion, including with