

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Next speaker is Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I have a question for Senator Withem.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Withem, when you were explaining this amendment, you said, as I understood it anyway, the first \$15 million would be distributed like LB 89 was two years ago. Does that mean that these lower paid teachers wouldn't receive any money out of this bill then?

SENATOR WITHEM: It will be distributed, in the sense that the law will remain the same was what I meant by it will be distributed the same, it will be up to the local school districts. If they want to choose how they distribute it, they can do so. We do not dictate, under the provisions of LB 89, we did not dictate who in a specific school district got the money. So I can't answer whether low-paid teachers or high-paid teachers will get it. It will go to school districts, and the school districts, then, will do what they please with it.

SENATOR HEFNER: One more question, but wasn't LB 91 introduced to say that all teachers will receive some of this money?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think I better understand your question now, Senator Hefner. There are really two different issues here. We never...we have a formula in this bill. There is a formula in LB 89. There is a formula in LB 91 that says how much money a school district gets. If you recall, Senator Conway offered an amendment on Select File on LB 89 that made school districts that pay their teachers less got less money. LB 91, if you think that's a problem, it corrects that problem. My amendment does nothing with the formula that determines how much money a school district gets. What my amendment deals with is how once a school district gets their money, what standards they apply when they decide which specific teachers in that district get the money.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Withem. I am going to