

suggested to the Education Committee and because of the dollar amount the Education Committee chose not to adopt it. Senator Hartnett is getting beat up a little bit for this amendment. There's a rational basis for it. Senator Moore did a fairly good job, I think, of giving a rationale of picking a particular point in time we'll fund before but not after, although somewhat strained. I think all of this is somewhat strained, in essence, when we're saying we will fund some of these programs that school districts entered into with good intentions, but we're not going to fund others, and by rejecting the Hartnett amendment, that is, in fact, what we're doing. I think he hit upon the reason we're not going to do this probably is because it will take a bill that is already for this session standards a pretty rich bill, \$300,000 and expanded to almost a million dollars in appropriations, and my guess is the Legislature is just not going to fund a bill like that. And there is another reason, policywise, why I'm not very fond of the Hartnett amendment. The Hartnett amendment does not say that we will fund it this year. It says that we may, and sometime in the future we may fund this. I'm really concerned that we do this too often. We don't stand up and say yes or no, we say maybe. I think by putting this in...attaching this amendment, getting it adopted to the bill, enacting it, will in all probability not lead to Bellevue getting any additional money. What it will lead to is each year lobbyists for Bellevue, Bellevue School Board, other school districts coming in front of the Legislature, spending a lot of time down here and we just simply are not funding it. We have...Senator Bernard-Stevens and I were joking yesterday about in the area of water rights, water appropriations, we give people a date in time by which they could have priority. Maybe we ought to do that with some of these unfunded matters we have in the statute. It might be interesting to do a survey to see how many commitments of funding we have in the statute. I know about ten years ago we passed LB 994 which was a big education reform measure with lots of programs that we were going to fund. Well, we ran out of money, we didn't fund them, we passed them anyway promising as soon as we get money we will fund some of them. None of those have been funded to date, so I'm reluctant to put anything in the statutes that says this is a program eligible for funding, we don't have any money to fund it now but we will fund it when we get the money. I don't think that's being terribly honest with the people because I don't really think we'll get around to funding it at any time. So I understand the rationale for the amendment and I think, you know, if the bill makes sense then