

the community and I submit to you that is a real, real concern. But another concern is that in a lot of those communities this teacher will teach two grades, two grades in one class in many of those small schools. So really what you are doing, you're saying that you're going to leave a poor teacher in a classroom for up to three years and you're going to affect a young person's abilities to learn for at least three years or for at least two years in that particular instance for two different grades and I think that that is somehow wrong. We need to recognize that. I think that those school boards should be under the gun, if you will, to get rid of bad teachers. That is the whole purpose it seems to me for the probationary period and I submit to you there are some teachers out there that have been kept too long. They have been kept long enough they have become part of those small communities and it is very difficult for those school board members then to say we're going to get rid of so and so's wife down the street or so and so that has bought a house next to me. The issue is to...the difference between school districts as you look at Class IVs and Class Vs where they have the three year probationary period. In a Class IV or a Class V there is that ability because of the many different facilities that that school has to move those teachers from one classroom to another classroom, from under one principal to another principal, under one administration to a different administrator, from under one area where they might have a personal conflict with some of the parents or some of the students to a different area in that same school system. So there is a little more of an ability to move those teachers if it is, in fact, a personal conflict within the area where she is teaching. It seems to me that that is a logical difference and the ability to do that should be given those larger school systems but the smaller schools don't have that ability and keeping that teacher for another year, detrimentally affecting the educational opportunities of those students, is fundamentally wrong. I think the two year provision is proper and should be left there. The rest of the amendment I will speak to later on, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd like to echo the words of Senator Vickers, maybe bring into focus the whole probationary period. Teaching, unlike any other profession, probably has the longest probationary period of review of any other vocation, any other job, of any profession that I know of. In some school systems it stretches into four and five years. I want to remind this body that as a teacher myself and as most teachers the