

nation is going to have to improve. Our system in Nebraska is going to have to improve. Targeting money to entice people into the teaching profession is part of the things we need to do, improvement, and I would urge you to vote against the Moore amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson is next, but may I introduce two groups of students we have with us this morning. In the south balcony, Senators Coordsen and Warner have 54 fourth graders and their teachers from the Crete Public Elementary School in Crete, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. And in the north balcony Senator Haberman has some guests from Paxton, Nebraska. We have 27 junior high students and their teacher from Paxton, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I very much support Senator Moore's amendment. That has been my problem with LB 89 all along. I have said time and time again publicly, to my teachers at home, to the news media, I will support any increase in state aid to education that I possibly can, even to go to the point that I may or may not support the Governor's 18.2, I will try to get that to state aid to education. What we're trying to do here in LB 89 is to set up a new system, a new one, so that we've got two frictions, two points working against each other. I go back to the \$18,000 salary and if anyone has any reason to differ with me, I shall certainly give them 30 seconds of my time. One thousand dollars increase on the base pay, when you get up to that top end, becomes over \$2,000 increase, so we're not talking about the simple 1,000 down here that I'm going home to my taxpayers to ask them to pay. To be honest with you, it comes out \$2,320 with the top, so that's where the ladder starts going up. I very much support increased teachers, but I also want something for that. I'll give you another example of a district, of a rural district. It only pays \$15,667, shortly north of my town, very good, dedicated teachers. Those teachers should have more money, those farmers can pay more money. They simply, and if we are willing to pick up the difference between the 15,000 that they're getting on the average or the 16,000 and give them 18, why in the world should they increase their district taxes or asking? They are smarter than we are. And back again when you start talking about amounts, it is so difficult to arrive at.