

agree that, with you, when you don't trust local school boards, I think if we give them the money, they will do it. This amendment will let you do that.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, please

SENATOR ABBOUD: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Moore, would you like to close on your motion? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, as usual on a bill like this and an amendment that you draft this time of the morning, there's a little bit of confusion. So let's just make sure that we're talking about the litmus test, this amendment, on what it exactly is. We're talking about whether or not we want to maintain local control and school boards in the State of Nebraska. If you buy into that concept that we want to maintain local control, then you, obviously, have to vote for this amendment because if you don't, you have a bill that provides money to school districts. True, the school district still has the local control to negotiate how that little pot of money is distributed, but the little pot of money is separate from the base salary and the negotiated salary that a school district and a school board and teachers' association negotiates. I don't think it should be that way because when you do that, as we've said before, you're creating two arenas in which teacher negotiations, teacher salary negotiations are going to take place in this state. They will take place in the school board like they always have and they will take place here in the Legislature as year in, year out, we debate and discuss how much we're going to increase teacher salaries over and above what a local school board is and we're going to set that. And in essence, when you do that, you've neutered a school board because we're the ones that are going to have to make the decision. And I think for all the teachers out there in Nebraska, if you want me...if you want to deal with me and the Legislature for your salary negotiations, you'd better think