

what I want you to focus on just for a couple of minutes here is what we really are talking about this morning and yesterday, we're talking about our children. We've got a bunch of them up here in the balcony this morning. Every day we get school children in here and that's who we are talking about. We entrust those children to the teachers every day. The teachers spend a lot more time with our children sometimes than the parents do or anyone else and they are at that formative age when they decide, what do I want to be when I grow up. A good teacher gives them a role model to follow and ideas as to what occupations are good and why and some values to hang onto. If the teacher can...is going to compete in the marketplace, or if we're going to compete for the teacher's services in the marketplace, we simply must recognize that they have to have a salary that they feel they can live on and that they have some self-worth when they take that pay check home. A lot of teachers get their degree, teach a while, go take some other job because they can make more money and they have families to take care of, too. So while all of you financial wizards are considering the fiscal implications of LB 89, please temper your Scrooge mentality and think about those children. Our children deserve for us to send the very best to those classrooms. So I urge you to get rid of all this sales tax thing this morning and realize that we do have the money available and let the teachers compete, I guess, with all the rest of those bills that are coming along that need money. I think they should have that privilege, so please don't vote for the Schmit amendment. I will vote for Senator Chambers' amendment. Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Shall debate now close? Have you all voted on closing debate? Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Chambers, would you care to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I'll be very brief and I won't take the full five minutes, if I can avoid it. So that you