

there.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. (Cavel.) Let's hold the conversation down so we can hear the speakers better, please. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Moore, I'm going to give you some of my time if you agree to give me some of yours if the dialogue goes on a little further here, because I'm not clear exactly what it is you are doing. Would you explain to me how you understand the system functioning under Section 5 of the bill currently and how it will function with the adoption of your amendment? What will be different with your amendment adopted?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Section 5 is currently...there the first subsection (1) talks about the minimum salary in the state shall be \$18,000.

SENATOR WITHEM: Right.

SENATOR MOORE: Then it goes on in (2) and (3) and said to provide for every school district in the state to pay a salary up to \$18,000, we are going to fund you at that level. That's what it says currently.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay.

SENATOR MOORE: With the amendment you strike the language that says everybody's minimum salary shall be \$18,000...

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, but they will still get the money based on the...in Phase I, based on the number of teachers they have below 18,000 but if the local school board chooses to give its height, conceivably, they could take that money that's targeted under Phase I and if, through their local negotiation process, they determine they wanted to give that for people on the top end of their pay scale, conceivably, they could do that. It will be determined locally exactly how that money is distributed?

SENATOR MOORE: That would be the intent, yes, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. Understanding the intent of it then, I