

the private schools would have to meet these wages too. Is that not right?

SENATOR WITHEM: Nothing legally that would make them. It could put a market consideration in the salaries that the private schools do give. It's a philosophical question. It could do that. I guess I don't have a particular problem with that. If educators in one segment are poorly paid, and I think 43rd ranking meets my definition of being poorly paid, they ought not to continue to be poorly paid merely because we don't want another group out there to have to come up with additional dollars to pay them.

SENATOR DIERKS: That's a fair philosophical statement.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that's all for right now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Wehrbein. Okay, Senator Wehrbein, then Senator Withem.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members, just briefly, I'm going to vote for this at this time. I think there is a lot of questions yet as to how this is going to fit in. I think we need to consider the funding and I confess I think it was a mistake this morning...this morning not to have the funding, at least some funding follow this bill. But I'm willing to let it come for a while and see where we're going to be at in 30 days, see how our budget fits. But I think we need to keep in consideration that it's going to be impractical, totally impractical to expect that in two years that if we don't continue to fund this, the school boards are not obligated to fund this, that we're going to let the funding for teachers' salaries or schools, whatever, drop back to present levels. So I think we're going to have to consider that and we will be in a better position to do that in 30 days when we get the budget up from Appropriations Committee. But, until that time, I'm willing to support this at least once and to see how it fits in with the scheme of things and that would be my basis for supporting it at this stage. I think Senator Lynch understands that but I think that we're still going to have to consider a long-term funding source for this and I think we need to keep that in mind as we move along our path the next 30 or 40 days.