

about and I think that's what this bill was all about, an incentive for those bright, capable young people going into college and going out of college to go into the teaching profession. For that reason, I'm going to support this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, Senator Withem just gave a perfect speech on why we probably should have supported the last amendment because for the first time in the time I have been here, and many others, you had many people saying, we're willing to put some money in education but this year because everybody's expectations are so high Senator Withem expects so much more. Not only does he expect so much more and probably more than they can ever conceivably get, they want to change the way we have always done it. Well, I concur with Senator Withem that I, like him, want to see that beginning salary get up in the teachers'...in the salaries across the State of Nebraska because I don't know why many people are going to college right now and investing four or five years, if they're like me, on a college education for going into a profession that only pays that much. I agree with the arguments that we need to do something. The thing that I don't agree on is how do we go about doing it? How do we go about doing it? With LB 89 I firmly believe we are basically saying, school boards, you're not competent enough, you're not dedicated enough, you don't have the will power or anything to address the problems of education in the state. From here on, from the passage of LB 89 forward the State of Nebraska is going to be the one that does that and those local school boards, we don't need you, even with my amendment which would have helped the bill somewhat you are still making that very basic shift, you're setting the minimum salary in state statute. That's something I don't like. And I think it's, you know, it's too bad when in any other given year the pro education lobby, like I said, they would be doing cartwheels to keep the state aid to education because back in November, primarily, the Nebraska State Education Association said, we're going to make LB 89...we're going to guarantee teachers a pay increase and we're going to say state aid doesn't work. Well, Senator Wehrbein said, well, he's not too sure but he's going to move it over one more time. I think there's a lot of people in here that are probably going today...I predict the bill is probably going to advance today and I think that's the wrong message to send. If you are against LB 89, if you are