

members of this Legislature do not vote for this legislation, we will have to face...we will have to face the NSEA in our next election. That's something that's not really...we all probably already knew that, I mean, that was one thing that I knew when I had the audacity to question 89 from the beginning, I knew I would be failing a litmus test by the NSEA. But I think it's a very sad day when someone publicly threatens this Legislature. I think it's a very sad day for the people in Nebraska. Now in some ways I stood here on General File and really in the heat of battle I will admit I made the mistake and said...and accused the NSEA of LB 775 type lobbying. And I will be the first to admit that, probably should not have been said. But even I didn't know that they would go to this extent to publicly threaten the Legislature and in many ways it's almost, in my opinion, it's almost as bad or worse than what ConAgra did two years ago. They didn't actually try and buy us off, they just said, if you don't...if you don't do what we want you to do, we're going to move. Well, the NSEA says, if you don't do what we're going to do, one, we're not going to give you money and we're going to give your opponent money, we're going to give your opponent lots of money. Now, as you remember what I passed out yesterday, talk about the figures, the NSEA contributes about three times more than the second place contributor in the legislative campaigns. That's a mean threat. That's a serious threat, something I take very personal of the integrity of this Legislature. But the fact of the matter is, as upset as that makes me, and as mad as it makes and as bad as it wants me just to kill this bill, one, I probably can't kill the bill and, two, it's not fair to take it out on the teachers of the state because of, in this one woman's mistake of publicly saying something she should never have said. Now, in light of a variety of reasons, even though NSEA refused to respond to me when I tried to work with them, they have asked me to pass over my amendment and give them one shot. And I will grant them the request they never gave me. They never gave me the time of day when I tried to work with them. I will give them one shot, try and get Senator Lynch's amendment, but I will fight it bitterly because even though it's toned down, even though has lowered the minimum salary to \$17,000, that minimum salary is something I cannot live with and I urge the body to vote against. But I will temporarily withdraw my amendment and allow and Senator Lynch and the supporters of LB 89 their shot at this bill, but I will fight it tooth and nail because it still contains the language that I think is bad policy for the State of Nebraska and I will allow them their opportunity.