

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment? I'm sorry, Senator Moore, did you withdraw it?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: My apologies, it is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Lynch. Senator, I have AM1377 on my desk. It's on page 1732 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, my amendment will be the only amendment I will offer. For a long time now we have debated a number of issues, sometimes these issues have generated literally dozens of amendments. I don't think it's in the best interests of the legislative body or this bill or any of us to the teachers in particular to politically try to play that kind of a game. I'm not sure where anyone of you or all of you come down, whether you think the 50,000 or the 115,000 was adequate, or whether you think nothing is adequate. But what I would like to see is at least a minimum amount of funding that would help to develop, I think, in the way of compensation the kind of respect this profession deserves. I passed out a number of handouts for those of you that are concerned about the political issue, how people generally feel. Maybe you don't want to know how people generally feel about it but that's the fact, folks, how they do, and it transcends party lines. I probably should, before I go any further, I want to thank Scotty, too, for the consideration he just offered in withdrawing those amendments, given the lateness of the day, it gives me a chance to get to the serious nature of my amendment that I offer for your consideration. Also, for what it's worth and for the record, maybe somebody made a mistake and said publicly what they thought...I should throw this in right away, about how the system should work and being sure you remember who helped and who hurt as far as your legislation is concerned and I just happened to go back in the records the first year I was here and found a voting record from the NFIB, which is a small business group. They identified nine key issues and how all the senators voted and rated them and that's, obviously, indicated in there that for those of us that didn't vote correctly we...the people that support this kind of an association should