

and we in Nebraska are getting the best we can get and maintaining the best we can get, then pay them the paltry salaries that we're paying now. If you believe that we can get better, that we can keep the best, that we can get the best to maintain themselves in education and affect...to truly affect that which affects our young people the most, the teachers, then support the Lynch amendment as it now states at the \$25 million level. It's as simple as that. Thank you, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I won't go on much longer. Hopefully, all of our tempers have settled down long enough to make some reason and good sense out of all of the emotion. And I apologize if I was a little emotional but I lived through it because I was part of the lawsuit. I instigated the lawsuit against school boards to force them to educate kids they didn't want to. So I took, personally, the argument that these people deserve all the money they can get with no strings attached. But, most importantly, today, hopefully, this will be a beginning point. It's getting late in the day. I'm not sure if I need to call the house and I won't bother you and take any of you're time by doing that unless we need it. But allow this amendment to proceed. We can go from there. I am available. Laurie and the staff is available. Anybody else who you want to talk to about this bill is available. Even those that you don't want to talk to, don't talk to them, talk to me, but allow me and Senator Withem at least the chance to talk with you about it. Maybe we can save time and the Legislature can come back with some kind of orderly process as it applies to amendments. I won't say any more than that except to say that maybe if I was a teacher right now, I would be feeling pretty bad. I want to tell the teachers, in case some of them are listening, don't take too seriously some of the...some of the rhetoric on the floor. If you think somebody is mad at you, if you're mad at a senator right now because of what they said, please don't take that personally. This will happens sometimes in a debate but sometimes that debate does not indicate the integrity of the individual or the issue. And I think today and this afternoon, being as late as it was, and being through...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...already some emotional issues, that that may have happened. We can't go through life just thinking about what happened in the past and trying to keep score. I can't