

after year after year and they're talking about the fact that they need that just to maintain the district's current spending level and that would raise the school district's portion of property taxes on a \$50,000 home about \$26 just on that 3 percent increase. Now one of the concerns that I've had, I know that many teachers are not paid adequately, but I also know that there are many teachers in the state that are receiving very good compensation for their services. I don't think that we've really got at it with this formula because those that are already the best paid are going to receive the most and I have to be concerned about the people that I have in my district who are definitely not living on \$18,000 a year as their minimum salary who are going to be asked to support this...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...with increased property taxes also. So that's some of the frustration that I have felt and I do want to stress that I think that we have to deal with the issue of assuring that there is a fairness in the way this money is distributed over time with these teachers so that the good teachers are getting that increase which they do deserve and that the poor teachers are some way or another weeded out or at least the fact that there should be a...that they don't receive the same amount of money as those that are doing a very good job; also, that we do something over time to decrease the property tax in the State of Nebraska. Now I know we don't all have that same concern, but I can tell you that those of us that represent the communities, the smaller communities, where we have not that high average of salaries that you have in Lincoln and Omaha are going to struggle to support this on a continuing basis. That's the concerns that I really do have here.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: I will support the Conway amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore, we are back to you, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, in deference I believe we have the actual amendment that we want to talk about now and for at least the time being I would like to temporarily withdraw this amendment and go to the next amendment.