

Senator Peterson advises guests in the north balcony, 44 fourth graders from Norfolk Public Schools in Norfolk. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Also, Senators Chizek and Hannibal have 44 students and their teachers from Joslyn Elementary School in Omaha in the north balcony. Would you folks please stand. Thank you. We're glad to have all of you with us. Senator Moore, would you care to speak to the Lamb amendment to the Conway amendment?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. Lo and behold, I'm going to actually take the side of the teachers for once on this issue with Senator Lamb. And the reason I do that because Senator Lamb is sitting here saying, wait a second, hold up. A school district out there that is paying somebody 12, \$13,000 isn't going to get any of this money. He is saying, wait a second, if I'm only paying teachers, if I'm skimping and only paying teachers \$13,000, I'm not going to get any money and we have to do something about that. I guess we have to sit here and look and see, look at Senator Lamb and say, wait a second, do we want to reward a school district out there that is paying a teacher a very, very nominal salary, and Senator Lamb and I are going to disagree. Because the fact of the matter is that he and I will probably disagree on getting the beginning salary up is what I think needs to happen. We have...I and the NSEA have always differed on how to do it because it is very, very important to me that those beginning teachers' salaries are increased because I don't know...maybe when Senator Lamb got out of college, whenever that was, 30 years ago, 40 years ago, whatever, 20 years ago, whenever it was, 15 years ago, whenever Senator Lamb got out of school he may have sat there and said well, boy, if I can get out of school and make \$12,000, I'm going to be a teacher, I'm going to be a teacher, and that's ridiculous this day and age. Look at...ask these Pages what they expect to make when they get out of college, and if any of them are going to be like me and make \$12,000, they're crazy. I'm the guy that's crazy, but you can make a lot more money doing something else. That's why it's important that we do increase those beginning teachers' salaries. Now in Senator Lamb's amendment he is saying those school districts out there that are not paying them very much, they still deserve some money, and he and I are going to disagree. And I think we agree that we shouldn't have a mandatory minimum salary in statute. I think it's very bad policy. That is why I like the Conway amendment. But he and I are going to disagree that I believe that we have to have some sort of carrot to nudge those