

beginning salaries up because if we don't, we're going to have even more problems in the state and now you're absolutely right, Senator Lamb. You sit there and say, well there is no shortage of applicants for teachers' salaries jobs...for teacher jobs, and I agree with him. But the fact of the matter is that we do need to do something about those salaries, those beginning salaries that I've always been concerned about and the Conway amendment does that while maintaining the maximum local control and does that without putting some minimum salaries in statute and that's why I like it. Now some people came to me this morning and said, wait a second, why are you of all people selling out the NSEA? I'm not selling out to them at all. Matter of...I don't know...they...I don't know if they like this, but at least this bill is now in the form that I've always said a long time ago I'd vote for. It strips out, with the Conway amendment at least, it strips out minimum salary. It's a dollar figure that, you know, three months ago teachers laughed at and now they're willing to agree on. If you remember on General File I offered a \$20 million amendment that was...I was...I was told everybody would be doing cartwheels, they never did. This is what I've always said is a reasonable figure and it's a reasonable way of doing it. Now Senator Lamb's amendment is going to wait a second, those schools out there that aren't paying teachers very much aren't going to get any money and I agree with that. And I am saying that's why I like this amendment because it gives them a carrot approach, some categorical aid to nudge those beginning salaries up, is what we need to do. So, obviously, I'm opposed to Senator Lamb's amendment, but to think that I'm selling out to the threats of Judy Behnke is actually inaccurate. I've always said this is what I'll live with and I'm going to live with it and I'm going to fight for it. But I think it's important by...you defeat the Lamb amendment. In the end we get Conway's amendment adopted onto this and so we can do something for the teachers of the State of Nebraska. And I have sat there and in many ways I'd like to just kill this bill to get even with the NSEA, but I'm over and above that, I'm bigger than that because I do want to do something for teachers. I want to do something for teachers' salaries in the State of Nebraska and with the Conway amendment what you're really doing is you're going to get the teachers up to about fourth in the region.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: A little, somewhat less than midpoint, fourth in