

think we have to keep that in mind. I still have the problem and I don't think even though it was listed here in Senator Conway's primary concerns with the bill...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...he talked about the fact, number one, sustainable funding had not been addressed. I don't see that we're even still addressing sustainable funding anyway in this issue. So that still remains a problem for me.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Am I closing, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: You are not.

SENATOR LAMB: I'm not closing. I would just again mention what the amendment does and the reason. It's 79-1336, if you want to look it up. It takes into consideration sparsity. I don't know how better to get at the problem that I'm describing and that is the fact that teachers' salaries are similar to salaries for other sectors of government and at least in private enterprise, that they are not the same all over the state for various reasons, one of the reasons being cost of living. Cost of living is less in some areas of the state. If two workers got exactly the same salary in a small town in Nebraska, in western Nebraska, as they get in Omaha, the one in Omaha would think he was discriminated against because of the higher living costs. So this is an effort, and I don't know if it's a best effort, but I was not invited to this high-powered meeting, I guess, that took place, but on the spur of the moment I see nothing better to alleviate the situation which we're going to have here because all the money is going to go to those schools that already have high teachers' salaries and the reasons they have high teachers' salaries are varied and one of the reasons is because they have a higher cost of living. I don't think that's fair. Here you're going to say to that district out in western Nebraska that has lower teachers' salaries because of lower costs of living, you don't get any money. You don't get any money to increase teachers' salaries because you don't get up to the minimum in the first place. You don't get up to the threshold where it kicks in, so I don't think that's fair. I do have another amendment to the bill that will come up later and that's just straight state aid to schools, \$20 million state aid