

more adequately. While many teachers feel underpaid, I think mostly they feel unappreciated. And I supported LB 89 because I think that besides that lift that we all get when we get an increase in pay, that this does show that we appreciate the good teachers that we do have in our schools and in our state. And I say this, when I have run for the last three times I have had the help of a lot of teachers, a lot of principals, a lot of administrators, but I want to tell you that I have never been supported by the NSEA and this is...and I repeat, never been supported by the NSEA and I'm not afraid of the threats that had been given us previously. But I think the real issue here is not property tax relief. We had that in other bills. It is not the fact that we are putting sticks in...this is a carrot for teachers, but we will deal with the other things as tenure or qualifications of teachers in other ways.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And this just deals with teachers and the fact that we do appreciate teachers. We appreciate excellent teachers and we want to reward them. And I think that Senator Conway has come up with a proposal without Senator Lamb's amendment that would, indeed, show that we do appreciate excellent teachers and we want to give those school districts that help and that incentive. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR LYNCH: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Lamb, would you like to close on your amendment to the Conway amendment?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President, and members, the question has arisen, what does this sparsity formula that I have referred to in 79-1336 really apply to? And it's a need factor for equalization aide. This...I believe it's been in the statutes