

for some time and it does recognize the specific problems when you have sparse...sparsely settled areas. Just to review what it does, it recognizes, in essence, that there are differing salary levels for workers across the state, depending on where they live, you know, and one of the big factors there is cost of living. It does not make much sense to have the same structure for salaries for any workers in Omaha as they do in the small town in Nebraska where the cost of living is less. So this is an effort and it's...it's using a formula that has been established in the statutes which does recognize the sparsity difference and, frankly, of course, it will mean that less money will go to those districts which are already high on the salary scale. Now I think that's logical. We should not...we should not be sending a lot of money to those districts which are already, for one reason or another, way high on the salary schedule. And then the other...the other situation is the one I have described. It does not make sense to have a structure here which says, in effect, it says to those school districts, you out there in western Nebraska have to have exactly the same salary schedule as they have in Omaha Westside, wherever, in order to qualify for this additional money. We're giving money to the wrong people. We're giving the money to those that really don't need it. You know, we're giving it to the Westside's where they already have high salary schedules and, you know, those people out there they're not going to increase property tax in order to be able to qualify for a small amount of state aid and so if they did do that, it would just be a bigger burden on property taxes. They're not going to do that, in my opinion. It's an unworkable situation under the Conway amendment because it...it actually takes from the poor and gives to the rich and it's hard, logically, to defend that sort of a situation which would require that the salary schedules be the same all over the state in order to qualify for this aid. So I would ask that my amendment to the Conway amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. And the question is the adoption of the Lamb amendment to the Conway amendment. Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 12 ayes, 21 nays on the Lamb amendment to the Conway amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. Back to the Conway amendment. Discussion continues. Senator Hartnett, would you