

as the body has agreed to sunset those things so we can't use that argument as to not adopt this amendment because there has been an agreement, that we have agreed. Now LB 89 is state aid to schools regardless, did you understand that, how you look at it. It is state aid to schools. So if this body agreed to sunset foundation and equalization, then the body should agree that it is just as important that we sunset this form of state aid, also. I am not opposed to LB 89. What I am trying to say that what was fair and honest and up front and important and so serious on LB 611 fits the shoe on LB 89. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Conway.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, Mr. President, members of the body, I am not going to support Senator Haberman's motion. I recognize why he is offering it, and I guess I would say that in its own quaint way it makes some sense. I guess I would say it is about as much positive as I can say. His argument is we are sunsetting elementary, secondary...elementary, secondary foundation and equalization in two years. We ought to put this back on the table at that time. A fair argument and I will grant it is a fair argument. The argument on the other side of the issue is that this is not general state aid. As a matter of fact, we have argued and debated that on the floor numerous times. I have refuted any attempts by the body to turn this into general state aid. This is a categorical program designed to help teachers' salaries. We have lots of categorical programs. The most obvious one is special education, and Senator Abboud was quite fond of telling us last year, I guess he is not here, but he was, there he is, quite fond of telling us last year when we were debating state aid to education that special ed funding is to the point now, it is growing so much to the point where it is rivaling what we give out in state aid to education, but we are not sunsetting that particular formula. We are not sunsetting...I can't think of other ones, but we are not sunsetting, and this will get Senator Chizek's attention, probably, we are not sunsetting the distribution of education lands and funds money. Maybe that would be a good idea to do that one. Senator Baack says, good, we are not doing that. So there are lots of categorical education funding programs that we are not sunsetting. We are making a policy determination here, and if we pass LB 89, we will have made the policy determination that the issue of funding teachers' salaries is important enough