

increased responsibilities and performances of teachers, and the other side was some money for teachers' salaries. Frankly, the teachers had a tough time being talked into the bill, to support it, because they said, you know, we are afraid that if we toss that bill out there, the Legislature is going to take the side that has all of the obligations and then they will come up short on the money side. Everybody said, no, no, no, don't worry, don't worry. It won't happen. So the bill came out to the Legislature, and what did we do? We lengthened the school day. We lengthened the school year. We established a testing program to get into teacher training. We established a testing program for certification. We upped the ante on training for additional certification and the like. Five or six different higher standards for teachers, and the funding flew away. For those of us who have been here for a long time who were part of that discussion, frankly, we have had due and owing the due bill on that side where we asked teachers to lengthen their days, their school years, up their obligations and their responsibilities, and then gave no matching element of incentive or recognition of what we were asking them to do. Senator Lynch's LB 89, to me, is a debt long overdue, time that we paid, and in my estimation is part of teachers in this state agreeing to a whole series of increases in their responsibilities and their professionalism without recognition on our part, and here is our chance to recognize that even as we fashion it in a way to have additional incentives for improvement. And, frankly, that is hardly binding on the younger members of the Legislature or those with less seniority, but for those of us who have been around since those days, we remember 994, and the fact that we asked the teachers to do more, to work harder, and to work longer, to which they agreed, and then we pulled the rug out from under them. Well, this is the rug and it is time it got laid down and nailed down so that they and we can stand on it and make a better house of education in this state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, Senator Landis is partially correct. Where his argument falls down is that this rewards only some of the teachers, only some of the teachers, you know, primarily the teachers in the urban schools. This is absolutely an urban bill under the Conway amendment, and if you want to tear the Legislature part, you know this rural-urban split I thought was getting healed, but it is not getting healed