

increases in teachers' salaries, and I think that that does result in a higher quality teacher, and it is tough to say at this particular time what is the proper salary for them to reach. I know in other parts of the country, they do have a very severe problem with their teachers' salaries and their educational standards aren't quite as good as they are in the Midwestern states, and I think that is probably part of the problem in the NSEA when they make their pitch for higher salaries is they talk about education. They say we are going to have better education, better educated students, if we have higher salaries, but, unfortunately, at least for their argument, is that we do have excellent schools in this state. We do have well-educated students, and it isn't an easy argument to make as they do down in Mississippi or Arkansas where they demand higher salaries because of the educational standards being as low as they are. So it makes a much more difficult argument for the NSEA to make that they will see a significant increase in educational quality as a result of increasing the pay. It is a tough argument to make and it is an argument that...well, it is just a tough argument to make. I am not really sure what I am going to do on LB 89. It is a bill that...I don't think it is really a bill that either side is happy with at this particular time. It is an approach where they want to increase the salaries but the mechanisms that have been established I don't think are maybe in the best way that they could be. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? Do I see five hands? Well, kind of...now I do see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting to cease debate. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Lynch, would you like to close on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LYNCH: I would like to yield the first couple of minutes to Senator Withem.