

the decisions. That's what I'm afraid of and I think that we're not being very responsible in letting that happen. I still don't know how I'm going to vote on this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Baack, followed by Senator Withem and Abboud.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I rise with mixed emotions on this amendment. I've always been a supporter of state aid to education in the past, but I could certainly make a lot of good arguments why you shouldn't vote for this. I could do it very easily. There's a lot of compelling reasons as to why we should not vote for increased state aid to education. Some of it is in the frustrations we experience in the Education Committee and we sit there year after year and we say we want more accountability to education. We want something for the dollar. And in many cases the administrators, the school boards, those kind of people come in and oppose those kind of things. They come in and oppose testing. They came in and were very, very reluctant to support choice which I think is a step in the right direction towards providing the kind of quality and the kind of accountability that we need in schools. I think that Senator Chambers is exactly right. We spent an awful lot of time on this floor and when we discuss education we discuss money, but we don't discuss quality and just throwing money at it is not going to do it. That's not going to solve the problem out there. We've got to do a lot of other things, policy changes; we've got to have some other things in place. Throwing money at it is not going to solve the problem. I think that's the mistake that we made in the state a number of years ago when we started with state aid. We assumed that if we gave them more money we were going to get a more quality product. I'm not so sure we get our money's worth in many cases. I'm still going to support this. I've always supported state aid to education and I think it's vital that we do put the dollars into education to give them the opportunity to provide the quality, but I also think we need the quality measures out there to make sure that they do it. We cannot just assume by giving them the money they are going to do it because it hasn't happened in the past and unless we make the policy choices, unless we provide the leadership that points towards quality education, and I think we can do that. When we vote on choice, I think we can do that. That points in that direction and we are the body that has to provide that kind of leadership. If we're going to sit back and wait for the administrators and the school boards and those kind