

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise to support this reconsideration motion. I voted against adding this amount this morning and had indicated to the people in the lobby that I intended to do that because we're just getting to the point, as Senator Moore has said, where something is going to have to give and the only thing I guess that prompted me to speak at all this morning was I was standing over there under the balcony and heard Senator Korshoj mention something about how we ought to vote for this because it's good for kids and Senator Scofield has been championing kids. But I guess when it comes down to this stage of the game when you have to make choices and I think that's why we were sent down here is we were sent down here by our constituents to make choices and to say yes to those things that we think are the highest priorities. There aren't any, really any things that are brought to us that are low priorities. That's why it's so tough to do it, you've got to do assorted process, it's not easy, but if we don't make some of those choices right now...then I...we are doing what I have predicted and others of you have predicted all session, that is we are just shipping a whole load full of stuff over to the Governor, we really haven't made any choices at all and there probably wasn't any reason for us to go through the agony of doing a budget or even all these discussions. Probably should have just taken the Governor's budget and gone home. We could have saved ourselves a lot of time and probably saved the money it takes to run a Legislature. But I guess back to that issue of what's the best for kids, in my opinion the best thing for kids is to pay teachers right and the teacher bill, the teacher pay bill takes a step in that direction, not as big a step as the teacher lobby would have liked, but it's a step and my concern at this point is this issue may very well threaten that and I have to make choices among education issues, as you do. We're all going to have to make some choices between education and health issues that we haven't even discussed yet which are equally difficult, so we've got this long list of things, all of which are good. It would be nice to be able to say yes to all of them, we can't, and so my choice here is to support the teacher pay initiative and to reject this one and I would encourage you to support the reconsideration motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think you