

nation who is at risk themselves. What LB 89 is trying to do is to say that we, the State of Nebraska, understand one point, that for years and years and years we have tried to increase teachers' salaries the old fashioned way, we'll raise property taxes and we can't do it and we won't do it, we have too many reliances on property taxes now. I have come to the conclusion the only way to get the salaries commensurate to a point where we can keep the level of quality of teacher that we want for our children is for the state to step in and say, we have a priority here to our children. For the state to come in and say, yes, we care about the poor; yes, we care about our indigent; yes, we care about Joslyn; yes, we care about pharmacy buildings; yes, we care about hog pens and greenhouses, but, above all, we care about our children, and I can't stress more than a speech or a conversation I had on the floor not too long ago when I said, remember the most important person to your child or your granddaughter or the young person that you're most familiar with, the person that is most with that child is the teacher. And it is a beautiful thing to see a magic appear in that classroom...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and that magic can continue only if we put the same amount of effort and support as our children deserve. I urge the defeat of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the amendment by Senator Nelson which, as you know, transfers this \$20 million from state aid to teachers to state aid to schools. You know, I'm very much appreciative of the teachers, of the teachers that I have had, teachers my children have had, the teachers my grandchildren have. And why do we have good teachers? Because we have a lot of dedicated people out there that are willing to do things that you and I may not be willing to do because it's not an easy job. It's not an easy job. I don't always agree with the groups that represent teachers but I have a lot more empathy for teachers than most people, than most people. But I cannot support the bill in its present form because it's a philosophical thing. What are we saying with this bill? We are saying that those school board members out there are not responsible. They are not responsible. They are not capable of deciding how the money should be spent. Now if