

with that, I would let you have the balance of my time, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, thank you very much for that last question, Senator Moore, because I was hoping I could get that into the record. Another member of the body just asked me that same question. The answer is, no, we are not telling those local school boards how many dollars they get or how many dollars each individual teacher needs to get. We are using this formula that was in the Conway amendment to determine how big the check is that goes out to an individual school district and that individual school district, through its collective bargaining process with its local teacher union, can determine what the...how those dollars go out and if they determine the needs in their community, they may get \$10,000 because they have a couple of wealthy teachers in their district and they qualify for the dollars but if they negotiate that the real needs in that district are to enhance the salaries of the lower people, they can target that money to the lower people. It's determined on a local level. You know, as I see the goals and the intent and, Senator Moore, I punched my light here so I will come up next and if you have additional questions and want to continue the dialogue, we can do that. But I think the clear intent of the Legislature, number one, is these dollars should be used for enhancement of teachers' salaries. That is our goal, that's our intent, that is our desire. We are not forcing that, necessarily, as a mandate on local boards. I think your amendment probably made it clear that that is not a forced mandate. It is clear, however, that these dollars are to be used for teachers' salaries and I think if there would be an audit of some kind and we would find that the football field was Astrourfed or there were new books in the library bought with these particular dollars, there would be a problem with that. That would violate legislative intent. The dollars will be on the table for negotiation, along with the dollars that are available from general state aid, property taxes, other things that go in to make the dollars available for...that are discussed and fought over for teachers' salaries. They may be distributed. The original intent of the bill, I believe, was that they be negotiated separately, those dollars that they would...that the teachers would, first of all, negotiate a local salary and then they would get an additional check, they negotiate how these additional dollars are distributed. They can still do that if they choose to do that. On the other hand, if they choose, agree mutually, to...to negotiate those dollars