

think it's the clear intent of the Legislature we would like to do them that way. There's nothing in the bill that says they have to do it that way.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But that's what you see them doing simply locally and then...

SENATOR WITHEM: I would hope they would, but there's nothing in the bill that says they have to do it that way.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield. And may I suggest the noise level is rising again. Please. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, just a couple of brief comments and I think it's good Senator Moore put this amendment up so we can clarify some of these things. I am relieved to be able to say that I'm going to be able to support this bill at the level it has now passed at. But I think the conversation here has made it pretty obvious that it is the intent of the Legislature that these funds be used to enhance salaries and not in any way to supplant other funds that are already there. I think there are ade...in fact, I think at one time I had thought about drafting an amendment that actually said none of these funds shall be used to supplant other fund sources and, frankly, just forgot to do it. But I think that the intent is very clear here this evening and I think there are some other safeguards as well, probably you couldn't get that by some of the CIR kinds of considerations. Teachers' organizations don't exactly negotiate in the dark, they will know what's coming to their school districts and probably will keep that from happening as well. And, finally, a board that chose to do that, I think, would find themselves in trouble at the time these funds went away in terms of being able to make up for that. So I think there are adequate safeguards there but it's good to have this particular thing in the record. The other thing that I did not get to speak on and I would like to just mention briefly on the whole concept of state aid that was offered as a substitute, I want to just say that from my experience in watching teachers for years and years and years, my mom was a teacher, my aunt is a teacher right now and my sister is a teacher, if there is anybody that gives state aid to schools right now it's teachers. Teachers buy pencils.