

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that we were not satisfied with the way the funds were distributed last time. We are not satisfied that school districts simply negotiate at that particular level and say we just want it distributed on a straight salary schedule. That is not good enough. That doesn't do the intent that many of us had of keeping good teachers in the system and encouraging new teachers within because the money is going, basically, for those that have been there the longest, that had the most experience. Very little money was coming in at the base-line level that would encourage new one. to come in because they feel the salary is adequate. I think the message should be sent, we are not satisfied, we want some changes, and we want some performance-based, and we are willing to do that in the next funds that will be coming up...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...when we talk about added funds, hopefully, a couple of years from now. I urge the body, at this time, to support the Withem amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Before I go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. First of all, we have guests of Senator Wesely. There are several members from the Mitsubishi Kasei Corporation from Tokyo, Japan, and Stu Miller (phonetic) is their department director and they are under the north balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Also under the south balcony, we have three guests of Senator Conway. We have Father Don Cleary, and Father Robert English, and Ann Marie Petrylke. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker I have is Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. It is always a privilege and a pleasure to talk about teachers, and I talk about them in a different way than everyone else, I guess, because I am getting here, again, a little feeling of Legislature or people against teachers. And for me, teachers are such special people, and I had a lot of them in my lifetime, and when I think about all those teachers, I think of one