

Quite often the flashy teacher, perhaps, as in any profession, the people that made a lot of noise, everyone thinks they are doing a great job. Well, we have seen that this week, the flashy person wasn't doing a good job. The teacher who goes everyday, works with their students, works after school, before school, in the organizations, and teaches those children, loves the children, is dedicated to them, they are the ones. If there is any extra money to be handed out, they are the ones who should get it. So right now, I am...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...not going to vote for this amendment. I will turn my light on again and speak again later. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Next speaker, is Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would suggest for a lot of us today these are many hard and difficult decisions that we must sort through in our ourselves and our own minds. I very much support Senator Withem's amendment. I have had reservations from the last time that we paid out the \$20 million, LB 89 money, and I have yet to see, in very few instances, I know it maybe helped the morale of some of the teachers, the morale of the families, and so on, but I thought that the purpose of our money was to enhance the education of our students, and I failed, in nearly every instance, to find where that has happened. It may have increased, given some, and I know it did an opportunity to move on to higher education, of which also I do know that that is typical teacher's life. They need continuing education, and our students deserve for our teachers to have that and to be able to teach. LaVon, I hate to tell you but we all got the same form letters, literally by the hundreds, myself, because I am on the Education Committee, telling us the same thing that you were told. So some did enhance their education, some didn't, and so on. I, too, I always have the favorite saying around here, once you let the steer out of the pen the first time, there is no closing that gate, and I believe that's what we are...eventually will be talking about today. When we made that commitment two years ago, whether some of us thought that the money was there, and we did need to enhance the teachers salaries, and we did need to speak to...we did not have to rob the crisis center or the libraries or the elderly or raise tuition to our college