

they are not going to raise their salaries, and they are not going to allow them to participate in the LB 91 money. And we will continue to have that inequity exist and, therefore, I would encourage the body to oppose the Conway amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch, do you care to speak to Senator Conway's? Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. Speaker and members...Mr. President and members, I would also, respectfully, oppose the Conway amendment. What it would do, it would return the formula for distribution of HELP funds to school districts to the original language in 89, but the purpose of 89 language was to encourage school districts to increase the teachers salaries which were less than \$17,000. Actually, it didn't happen. I understand the purpose of and his concern. However, I think our concern also was during the past two years that there were 1,200 people out there, 1,280, in fact, who were ineligible to participate. I don't have any kind of information that would indicate whether or not leaving the language in would work in the next two years so we could develop some better language. But I do know that people fell through the cracks and were left out. We also know that there are some areas in the state that are in tough shape right now, given the tax circumstances that we have. I would like to think that the people who administer the schools at any level will try to be as fair as possible. And I also know that the teachers who deal with those school districts and administrators should have the right to bargain, whether they belong to a bargaining organization or not, in their best interest, whether it is a single teacher in a Class I district, or many teachers in a larger school district. I like the idea of funds being available to the school districts and the fact that the teachers and the administrators must work out without an awful lot of encumbering language as to what they will do and how they will do it. It is a good idea that we do this that Senator Conway suggests. However, what I think we should do is to leave LB 91 like it is without that kind of intrusive language that was in 89, and which is now out of 91, permit the flexibility we need at the local school level to make these kinds of decisions, and see how it works. And if it doesn't, I think it would be appropriate for us, if we can see whether it is misappropriation or unfair treatment of teachers and, in fact, and/or school districts, and then revisit the issue then. So I would respectfully suggest that we not support the Conway