

be controlled by a local school board. But getting back to this amendment again, I don't know whether all of this \$15 million should go into performance-based pay, but I think a good part of it should be because these school teachers also have their pay from the local school board. I know that in business, that if we can pay on performance-based pay, we have better employees and if we want to attract better people to the teaching profession, I think they ought to know that we're going to award them for doing a good job. We want more good teachers in the system and at the present time they tell me that they can't get rid of a poor teacher because of the tenure system. So I think we need to take a look at that. But maybe what we should say, if this amendment don't pass, maybe we should say the amount of money that the state provides should be at least be on a fifty-fifty base, fifty-fifty for performance-based pay because we certainly want to attract more people to be teachers. I did a little research on another bill that I introduced and this was a bill that said that if you dropped out of school you lost your driver's license. Well, it was killed in committee and it didn't, it won't be debated this year. But I found out that nearly 4,000 students dropped out of schools during the grades 7 through 12. So we do have a problem there and I realize if you take away their driver's license, well they're not going to be too happy with us, that's true. But there are four states that are doing it now and West Virginia has been the leader of this and they tell me that their dropout rates have...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...decreased nearly 50 percent. So I think we need to work on how we can have better schools in Nebraska, and I think with this amendment, the Abboud amendment, I think would be a step in the right direction, so I would encourage you to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Before we continue with the next speaker I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Ashford. They are 54 fourth graders from Hillside Elementary in Omaha and their teachers and they are in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker I have is Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to this amendment, not because I am opposed to the