

concept of looking at performance-based or outcome oriented goals as a way of measuring whether or not or how we spend our money, but I am concerned that we have sort of lost sight of the intent of LB 91. I'm also bothered by the fact that there has been several people saying we didn't get anything for our money. Did we not get anything for the \$20 million or did we not ask the right questions? Did we not set up a good evaluation system for determining whether or not we got some kind of impact that we wanted to get with the \$20 million? One of the things that I heard from a lot of teachers that they spent their money on was additional training or education. The literature would show that there is a very high correlation between additional training and the quality of teaching that goes on in the classroom, so it may well be that some very good things happened but that we didn't ask the right questions or come up with a system for evaluating and I don't think it's correct to assume that nothing happened with that \$20 million that benefitted education. Second of all, I think that we have a problem in the sense that the entry level for teaching is embarrassingly low. This is one of the most significant professions in our society. From teachers come all other professions and instead of being one of the lowest entry level professions, it ought, in my opinion, to be one of the highest level entry positions and that's one of the things we're trying to accomplish with LB 89 as well as LB 91. I'm a little bothered about whether or not we're actually accomplishing that, but I don't think that this amendment brings us any closer to raising that entry level for this significant profession. Now that does not mean that I don't support, and I did support the Withem amendment because I think it's time now to begin to look at quality and performance-based as a reason for giving additional money to teachers, but we must not quit trying to reach accomplishing that goal of a decent entry level for the profession of teaching. I don't think we've reached it yet and we still need to keep focusing on that and that's why I think a significant amount of the money that we're giving at this point should still go towards that goal of supporting our teachers with an entry level salary that is decent and that we can begin to phase in and focus on some accountability issues. So for that reason I would urge you to oppose the Abboud amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Just for your information I might announce that we, that my plan is that we work straight through the lunch hour since tomorrow is a recess day and I would like to work at least till three o'clock or