

and son-in-law who are both teachers. And, Senator Robinson, they are outstanding, excellent teachers I might add also. I worked for the Omaha Public School system in their citywide testing program of California achievement test and the Lord Thorndyke test. I supported LB 89 and I got some thank you notes from teachers who told me that they use that money for...partially for vacations, for some financial cost catch-up, for school supplies, little extras that the school system doesn't provide and maybe one or two said they put it to educational hours, not very many. I supported Senator Conway for a base for every teacher because I thought we were saying in LB 89 the Legislature loves teachers and we appreciate you and this is a bonus. And now we say, what is the intent of LB 91? Is this a bite of the apple? Is this a bonus or a forever stipend? I think that we should reevaluate this every two years and that's why I'm supporting the sunset clause. I kind of like the merit pay for excellent effort even though the bonus pay I thought was important and I think the combination would be good. But here's a problem that I have heard from University of Nebraska teachers who have a problem with merit pay and think that many times they are awarded because of politics or favoritism or some kind of not equitable based on merit pay. So maybe we need a combination of both of them. I don't know. If we only have 15 million, this is base pay. And I want to say to every teacher in Nebraska, I do appreciate you and I appreciate what you have done for my kids. I appreciate the education I had in Nebraska public schools that prepared me very well for my life. But, again I say, we've changed our focus from '89 to '91,...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...I think we need to put in the sunset clause so we can reevaluate again and I support Senator Dierks' amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the patience of the body to allow...to vote not to call the question a couple of speakers ago so I could at least say one thing on this bill. I'm a co-sponsor of LB 91, as I was of LB 89, and since I've been in the body I like to look at these kinds of...this kind of legislation at least in the historical perspective of my tenure here which is not that long, obviously,