

we fund justify their existence. I would ask you to think about that if you're, you know, serious about this kind of a problem for teachers. I say that because I don't think we should isolate out teachers for this kind of...this kind of overview and scrutiny when they're already very well scrutinized and there is a lot of overview through a number of ways, including the Legislature, obviously. But if we do that, and I think it's a good idea, that would be one solution if you're looking for a final solution, in fact. Originally, real quickly in the form of explanation, LB 89 was a 150 million bucks, 50 million of it was property tax relief, 10 million for all entry level salaries up to 18, and 75 for general salary increases would have...which would have brought our state up to number one in the seven-state area around us and then they had the 15 million performance, that Chris Abboud didn't mention. That, obviously, did not work. Scotty mentioned, of course, the article by Mr. Mackey but I think Scotty would even admit that...and all of us here know what's going on, there were a number of things back in '89 we considered that cost money, or affected how much we had to spend, for example, LB 84, which gave back \$110 million in the rebate, tax rebate. So we have to think about things like that as we make arguments to justify our points of view. Howard just handed me this. I will pass...show it to everybody, so just to remind them. Would you hold that up? Would you stand up and hold it for me as I finish my closing? Okay, he won't cooperate that much. I have to say that what...what we're doing with this bill is talking about averages, trying to get the salaries up to at least the average ranking in salaries of teachers in those states surrounding us, which is a pretty good peer group. And I have to tell you my experience on the Appropriations Committee has come...has led me, come to understand a little bit more about peer groups. It's interesting, at the postsecondary level, the \$10.6 million we're going to recommend in salary increases at the university level does, in fact, recognize that average and does, in fact, provide the money so that they will either be at or very, very close, within a very few percentage points of the average. Even with this \$15 million, we're still way behind in Nebraska. We'll still rank 6th of all the seven states with an average, in some cases, much less than even part-time professors in...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...postsecondary education programs. We talked about this with the teachers and we were willing to take that