

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: ..teachers with a young family.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. I want to commend Senator Withem for bringing this amendment to us. I've always thought that, if the state was going to enhance the salaries of our teachers, we should do it on a performance basis and, although in this particular bill now it's amended down to 15 million and it says 15 million for regular base salaries and 5 million for performance based, but the 5 million for performance based isn't there. I'll have an amendment coming up after this one that says that 5 million would go for performance based and 10 million for the base salaries or, in other words, it would be a third of the 15 million that's appropriated. But, yes, I think that we need accountability here. Not saying that our teachers aren't good, but I think that we, in the Legislature, here have to see that we get a dollar value out of each tax dollar that we spend. I've talked to some of the school boards and some of the school administrators on the 20 million that we appropriated last year and paid out in teacher salaries, and the 20 million the year before, and I got mixed feelings about it. I hope it was spent wisely, but I don't know and I don't think that many of us here in this body knows whether we got our full value out of it. I did receive some letters from some teachers telling me how they had spent it. This teacher spent it for this; that teacher spent it for that. But I think if we get this performance base amendment on this bill and then as, in fact, I'd like to see all the dollars that the state appropriates for its teacher stipends going to the performance base deal, because I think then we would have true accountability and I believe that's what we need to strive for. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Horgan, followed by Senators Robinson, Withem, Crosby, Bernard-Stevens, and Nelson.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. I would rise in support of Senator Withem's amendment. If we're going to do performance-based pay, then I think it's appropriate that we establish some guidelines and I think these are flexible