

divided that out equally? Okay, thank you. And this is the unfortunate part of this debate because the long-term position, that the Legislature has now put itself into, has been done for \$300 a year. And you may say, well that's not a whole lot. Is that going to keep anybody in the teaching profession? Is that going to attract anybody? No, of course it won't. Is it a step in the right direction? Well, I think that's hard to argue against. I mean any increase would certainly be a step in the right direction. But is it worth the price that you pay to take that step? We're about to go down the path where you will increase your property tax because of the lost revenue to the cities and the counties, you're going to increase the variable tax, at least for this first year. But I think Senator Rasmussen's comment is right, well at least the \$300, that seems appropriate. But it's not going to be enough, and you're going to have to go in and increase it. So where are you going to increase it? How much money does it really take to make a significant step? No, I think it's more than \$300 it takes to make a significant step towards assisting those salaries, particularly if you're going to bring the bottom level up. And so you're going to have...this is a permanent funding source, this isn't a funding source that you're going to be skipping back and forth easily with. And so you must realize that by doing this, maybe it's \$1,000, maybe it's 1,500 a year that's going to be needed to make significant increases and to bring those salaries up. I challenge you that the best way to do those is to find a source that all Nebraskans pay through the General Fund. I know that's not easy. And last year this body did that, but it got vetoed. But know that what we're going to do here is that \$300 just plain isn't enough. And there's going to have to be other increases that are going to come at the expense of the Highway Trust Fund again, and again, and again, and again, because this is permanent. This is not a one year fix. And, as I said in the past, I do support those things coming from the General Fund, I've done that in the past, sometimes much to the chagrin of my district, because I think it was the right thing to do. But I do not think it's the right thing to do to go back, in the same year, to increase that variable gas tax, to increase the property tax, and knowing that I'm going to come back year, after year, after year to make those significant changes through this funding source. With that, the support that I may well have for 1272 has been lost because of the larger step, and that's the taking of the Highway Trust Fund monies on a permanent basis. Thank you.