

this will not be the only issue that we will have to be discussing. My problem, too, with the stipend, and I know it's happened in a lot of the districts, is the way that the money was divided out. To me, if someone is up fairly well in the higher figures in salary, of increased salaries, maybe they don't need that raise as much as that lower income person. The person that has the family or the person that's starting out that is in the 20, \$25,000 range. Senator Crosby, I don't know of any teachers that are now making 14,000. If they're making 14,000, maybe consideration of a trailer house or something. This bill is not going to help them at all. The pittance amount that they would get from that may be one sack of groceries or two sacks of groceries, so it's simply not true that we're going to increase the salary of all of those. I don't think you were on the legislative floor when this bill was discussed before. Senator Smith and I tried to get a level of lower...compensation for the lower paid salaries. We were not successful. And the reason that some of these are paying that, they could pay better if they wanted to. That's a local decision. This money should be going back to state aid to education and local decision on the salaries. And it's the lower paid teachers that we simply need to address, but in many, many districts, and I will have to tell you of the dissatisfaction in my own district, the money did not go to the lower paid, it went on the salary schedule and the more money they were making, the more money that they got from this. And I don't think that's fair. So I wish that there was somehow or another we could address that and recognize the lower paid teachers or some incentive or some reason. You know, the reason that part of their pay is low is they have not had the money to upgrade their education and so, therefore, they are on a lower pay schedule. I would support and work very hard for any legislation to retrain or help teachers to improve their education level. And it's not their fault and it simply is needed like any other profession. So, at this point, as I said, I didn't speak on it, we have a lot of other things coming down the pipeline that we have to figure. But I cannot support taking it out of the Highway Trust Fund and I still worry about my libraries and crisis centers.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.