

on salaries, who need or want some assistance, needs a steady, stable source of funding that only dedicated funds can bring them. And that doesn't mean that this isn't a good amendment, but that the whipsaw occurs again, and again, and again. And I think your amendment points out exactly what the problem is, and I appreciate your bringing the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. I, too, just want to speak briefly. I appreciate Senator Lynch bringing the amendment forward, simply so conversation can be had. I find it interesting that many people who voted against giving teachers a permanent funding source are now saying that, yes, we need to find some funds for that. The point is that if there is not General Funds available, that will be a problem every year to find General Funds, we have to then find some other source that's permanent. And if that's the case, you're going to have to take it from somewhere or create a new tax. And so people need to understand that at some point, if you really believe what you're saying, if you really believe we need to find some permanent fundings for the HELP program, if we really believe in what we're doing in education on the policies that the Legislature has agreed to in '89 and '91, then you have to, at some point, come to the conclusion that General Funding will not do it, we have to find a source. And I'll guarantee the body that each year it gets a little closer. Before the Highway Trust Fund, you could not ever get 12 votes to do it, now there are 24 votes. At one point there were 29. If we don't find some funding source permanently, we will find one. And I think it behooves all of us to get together during the interim and see what Senator Kristensen and myself and others, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Lynch, to try to find some source of funding that we can agree upon. Otherwise there are going to be rates and we are going to have the bitter debates that we had in the past. It makes sense if we are all this one, happy family, that we need to find funding sources. Let's find the source during the interim. I'll be glad to push it through, and let's get something that permanently puts the funds in there so we don't have to fight every year on helping to fund a policy that we have all agreed we need to do. It's nice to position ourselves, but let's find the source and let's get it done next session, if we can't do it here. I can't support the amendment at this