

whatever they qualify for, is divided simply by the number of qualifying teachers, and every teacher in that system would get the same amount. So, in my example, if there was enough for \$700 for each teacher, each teacher would get 700. Now, one, that would certainly help some of the dissension that I think happens in the ranks relative to the distribution of that money, that that's not in question, and, two, the lower paid teacher would get the same amount of money, but at least could lay claim to a better percentage increase over their entry level or their low level salaries than what the higher paid teacher would. And so I simply offer this amendment to you that suggests that whatever amount of money is in the pool, whatever you qualify for your school system, you simply divide it by the number of teachers who are qualifiers, and everyone gets the same amount. So it is quite simple, and I think it will better allow us to be able to go out and say, it is working, we are moving the money in a way that we are trying to bring up those lowest paid teachers in a way that they would get the highest percentage. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Conway. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I stand in support of Senator Conway's amendment, and I think now is the time to do what he has in his amendment by giving each teacher the same amount of money, not based on whether you are...like in several of my districts, whether you are a coach, you get more for coaching and so forth. We are talking about an equalization among classroom teachers, and I think this is a move in the right direction. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I also rise to support this amendment. Back in 1989 when we were talking about all of the teachers' salaries and different things, LB 89, and at that time we talked about how we were going to help the low income teachers in Nebraska. And, actually, the way that the funding came out, you really didn't help the low income teachers. LB 89 was sold to the people of this state as a way to help low income, the teachers that had a low income, and I think this amendment is a very fair amendment. It is an amendment that should have been here a long time ago