

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker, members, as I have listened to the debate go on here, I've heard some senators rise and talk about the fact that the money that was sent out should be used to address low income. I have heard Senator Morrissey and some others speak to the need of beginning salaries. I have heard others speak to the need of performance-based incentives. All of that speaks to what I think or draws my attention to what I think is a very most important point and why I strongly oppose this amendment. I believe that the needs in each district are different and distinct. Because of that, local school boards and the negotiating teams are given the authority to decide how that money should be distributed. Of course, some of us maybe were upset who wanted to see beginning salaries raised and they saw that that didn't happen, but when we do this, we are invading the authority of local school boards, and also taking away a responsibility that is theirs, and also taking away an article that should remain in local negotiations, and not on the floor of the Legislature. For this reason, I opposed this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Robinson, you are next.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Bohlke, on your last comment, the only problem when you give it to the negotiation team or that group of people and the school, it is the people that are all...that have been there for years, and I think this is what Senator Conway is getting at, that the people on the low pegs of the salary schedule, they really don't have any voice in that. I have received several letters from first, second, and third year teachers, and they complain about coaches adding all their salary on, consequently, they get less money, and I don't think that is the right way to do it. Going back to Senator Withem, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I agree with them. Everything over \$15 million ought to be based on performance. I am not too sure about serving on a committee. I don't know that that increases your performance in the classroom, but that can come later, and we talked about that last year, I have no problem with it. But the first 15 million, our biggest problem is getting those salaries on the beginning part of the salary schedule up. Is Senator Hillman here? I wanted to answer her question. I guess she isn't here. She couldn't figure out what Senator Conway's amendment is. Very