

districts are not paying their teachers more in the case of these 43 that are making under \$14,000 a year. I have no idea how many teachers there are in the 14,000 to 17,000 dollar category, for instance. If every one of these school districts had to meet that, say, minimum \$17,000 range, there's only one school district that has four teachers. Most of them only have one. So we're talking about probably the most any school district would have to come up with to meet that minimum criteria for these 43 teachers anyway would be \$16,000 for the school district. I realize that in some cases these are very small districts and we're talking about maybe very few families in these districts.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But if we want fairness in our system, I think they either have to pay the teachers decently or find some other solution. With that, I would just encourage that we not support the Conway amendment at this time, even though I think, Senator Conway, your heart is in the right place, for sure.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Robinson, you're next.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, you know, I listened to Senator Schimek and I couldn't believe that she was opposing Senator Conway's amendment because she was getting at the...at the real problem that we have with teachers' salaries. The lower paid teachers do not receive as much. And that's what Senator Conway is getting at. Now I see no reason you shouldn't support this. The high priced teachers, they're going to get their share, but the lower...the lower salaried teachers, they will probably get another 50 or 75 dollars, which, in their case, it's going to help them a lot. Might buy a couple of sacks of groceries for them. But I have...I have a question for Senator Withem, if he would respond, please. Is Senator Withem around?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Working on economic development here, Senator Withem, and I...Senator Withem, your telling Senator Conway, and I guess I can include myself in there that we're breaking with what happened. Now you said all these people got together and said the unions...or excuse me, I used the wrong word, the