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assume that any teacher in the state could achieve this level, or is it the case that there would be some that really would be out of reach?

SENATOR THOMPSON: This is a very rigorous program, it rewards only the highest quality. One of the things that I'm going to do when we get to the committee amendments is read some testimony from one of the teachers of what she had to be able to show to be able to achieve this. It's a very rigorous high standard.

SENATOR RAIKES: So what you're saying is that it requires a lot of work. Would it require some other abilities that would be relatively uncommon?

SENATOR THOMPSON: The teachers would be required to provide, as Senator Bohlke said, a portfolio demonstrating their teaching skills; it's critiqued and reviewed. And when I read this testimony, I think you would have an example, but it will take longer than a question time, of what the process is like. And you have to have the skills...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, the question I keep coming back to, though, is this something that is a realistic possibility for any and every teacher in the state or not?

SENATOR THOMPSON: It would be if they could reach this level of quality. But I don't think currently you would see a great influx...I can give you the history in other states once this was passed,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...of people achieving that. First of all, they have to be teachers for three years before they could even apply. So that's going to eliminate some of the group. But, yes, every teacher would have the potential to reach this level of quality and be certified. The reality is that probably won't happen.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So, is it...would it be incorrect to characterize this as a program that would offer some relatively