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forth. But what she didn't meet the standard with all these things that she did. And she realized after doing that, what she told us in her testimony, is that she needed to do more with the students to be more out...have more outreach to the parents and the families. And she changed her teaching style because of learning from this experience, and it has made her a better teacher and better able to work effectively on behalf of her students. This process is very, very rigorous. They take assessment tests in their field, but they also provide a portfolio, as was mentioned, videotaping of their teaching, a lot of other things. This is determined by a group of their peers. What we need to do in the state is to show that we have a commitment to this very high quality, high quality teachers. We want them to stay in the profession, but they deserve to be paid for the extra mile that they go and all the extra work that they do, particularly at the state level to qualify for this national certification. This is a way that we can demonstrate this year to the teachers in Nebraska that we are willing to take this first step to reward the quality. And Senator Tyson calls this elitist, I don't think it's any different than any other profession or any other type of competition where, if you are the best at what you do,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...if you are skilled and you are shown to be that skillful person, that you are rewarded, both with the recognition and also with the funding that will help them be able to stay in the profession. One of the other anecdotal things I would mention is that this summer I was talking about teacher shortage with a business group. And one of the businessmen talked to me afterwards and said, well you know, you're right, we needed Spanish teachers for a bilingual part of our business, and I had been on a committee with a great Spanish teacher. So we recruited the teacher and then asked the teacher to recruit other teachers. We are...if you had a mathematics teacher of the quality of this teacher who came to speak to us, and believe me, I was so enthused by the time I got done hearing her, I wanted to write her a check myself, but I do believe it's only fair to reward these people who are at the top of their profession, and that's our responsibility as a state to reward them and keep them there and encourage them...