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certainly offers an important beginning and certainly do support this program and oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Thompson, on the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Mr. President, members of the body, one of the points I want to emphasize is that the states that have gone to this program have vastly expanded the number of teachers who have gone into the certification process. Iowa has a reward, it's a \$5,000 reward. When they started in 1997, they had 14 teachers, and within a short period of time have moved to 145 teachers who have this national certification which is, as Senator Stuhr pointed out, a renewal process for existing teachers and only can serve to enhance the quality of teaching. We're a smaller state than Iowa. Our teachers who are in the program have a high rate of success. I think we can be just as good as the Hawkeyes next door when it comes to being able to say that our teachers also have this high level of quality, as demonstrated by the National Certification Program, and we should reward that. And this is a bonus from the state to the teacher. It builds, not onto their salary level, it's a separate reward that we as a state would say we are rewarding quality, we're encouraging quality and it's one way that we can help address the problem of teachers staying in the profession and knowing that they will also be able to, in a career track some day, get to this level of recognition within their communities and recognition at the state level. And with that, I urge you to oppose the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Schmitt, on the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. President, members. I'm not sure this is the Tyson amendment, but I think it's going to be dealing with it. But I got a little question, I guess, for Senator Thompson as I read the Master Teacher Program here. We're going to be, the way it appears to me, we're going to be giving these teachers an annual bonus of \$7,500 for the life of their certificate which, as I read in the other part is ten years, is that correct?