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recognize that quality teaching. Instead of tearing down those in the profession who may not be at a level that we would like to see them be at, we should be rewarding the people who are the high quality teachers and having them reach out and help to improve the standards for all the teachers and then improve quality of teaching and help the kids. The teachers, I bet, that are in this program are the ones that, when you were growing up,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...you would have looked to and admired and gone back to see when you went back to your schools. And they deserve more than just those who can't do teach. I'm kind of reminded of the Chaucer writing which said, and gladly would he learn, and gladly teach, and we need to reward that. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Tyson's amendment. I've heard some unusual conversations here when people are expressing reservations about this amendment. They suggest that merit pay is something that we should consider, for example. They suggest that people ought to be paid what they're worth, which I certainly agree with. And there are a number of other suggestions that I don't know quite how to put in the context of what I'm understanding would be opposition to this amendment, because this amendment tends to do those things. It does tend to reward merit. It is extremely difficult to obtain the certification that would be necessary to obtain this benefit. It is unimaginable that a teacher who obtains this certification is not a good teacher and maybe even the best teacher in their school, particularly if they're the only one in their school that has this certification. It would be the best evidence that I could imagine that they could very well be the best teacher in their school. These are going to be the best teachers in this state judged by someone else, judged in an objective fashion by someone else, among them their peers. How can we suggest that people should be paid what they're worth and be paid on the basis of merit and then not be willing to do something for the