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persons who would be the best teachers in the state? Makes no sense to me. Now you can say that it's too little or maybe too much, but how can you argue that we should not do something for the people that we objectively could identify as the very best teachers in the state? To suggest that then these persons who have been evaluated and certified by an outside standard as the very best teachers in our state are not the ones who are delivering quality education and deserve to be paid, because they are the best teachers in the state, just doesn't make it. I think we should oppose Senator Tyson's amendment. If we want to talk about how much of a reward these very best teachers in the state ought to receive, that's a different topic. But I don't think we ought to talk about not rewarding them, that's exactly contrary to all the other discussions that I've heard.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. We are discussing the Tyson amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I don't know why when we're talking about teachers we have to compare them to bricklayers. Only perhaps that bricklayers get paid more than teachers do. I...and tradesmen, a lot of tradesmen get paid more than teachers do. And just because you're a teacher, you should have to aspire for the best because that's what you should do. We shouldn't reward teachers with money because, after all, this is a profession and we shouldn't do that. I've heard that about my own profession for too many years. You lose teachers and you lose nurses that way because you don't pay them the amount of money they need to do a job. I really think that this is the fairest way. This is a beginning to look at the fairness of it, that's the reason we have the study. We're going to look at paying a teacher what they are worth and see if we can find a way to do that. But until we do, we're going to reward our best and brightest. We're all the time talking about the brain drain, brain gain around here. This would be one way of keeping our best and brightest in the state. This morning we were talking about pregnant women on welfare and how 185 percent of poverty, they may be making, a family of four, a mother and three children would be making \$30,000. Well, gee, I know teachers that would love to make \$30,000. They are having a hard time making ends