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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this song and she said, it's so nice to be insane because nobody asks you to explain. So sometimes there's an advantage to being insane. And what Jim Cavanaugh told me is that, under the old Irish law, there was marriage between insane people. I think, under every law, people who get married fit that category. (Laughter)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We are discussing the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399. Senator Thompson, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. When I introduced this bill at the beginning of the session, I discovered that the Governor of California had just announced that the California award he was hoping to raise to \$30,000, so I began thinking about the \$10,000, thinking maybe I came in a little too low. But I support the Education Committee's proposal of \$7,500. Obviously, this isn't exactly what the person will take home anyway because part of it will be taken out for taxes. I think it needs to be a significant amount. I don't support reducing that amount. I think \$7,500, as proposed by the committee, is a reasonable compromise and I would urge the defeat of this amendment. One of the questions or issues that Senator Chambers has raised is to imply that the people who receive this certification could sit back and do nothing and coast for the next ten years. In order to become recertified, they have to document during that ten-year period the same types of things that they would be documenting in order to receive the certification, so they...it's an ongoing process. They must document this information annually. In the first place, I don't think teachers of this quality would be the ones that you would expect to coast anyway, but, to assure Senator Chambers, that is part of the recertification. So, if you want to take his argument, if they just wanted to go the ten years and not recertify, I suppose they could, they could do nothing. But this part of the award is to be reviewed by your peers and part of that process is your commitment to quality teaching. And so I believe that they would certainly continue and I don't want to engage in a discussion of that to any...to any level because I think it begs the question of a quality teacher. But I would urge the Chamber to continue to support the Education