

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 2000 LB 1399

states have done, they've thought that \$5,000 was a reasonable amount, but this would not preclude you coming back next year and changing that amount.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Boy, I really hate to have to vote for this. I just think it's a terrible...this was what I was talking about priorities the other day. I just think that this is a sad commentary on what we, as a Legislature, find important and what we decide to fund, and we are going to take this out of...off the table to please the Governor, and...or to protect LB 1399 so the Governor won't veto it. I think it's sad that we can't decide on our own what we want to do with the money that we...a limited amount of money that we have. I think the least we could have done is do this; take the \$2 million that we're going to lose giving it to TV stations and put it in this would be a much better use of our money. And I'm very disappointed and resentful that we have decided to go this way rather than spend the money on making our teachers better and, thus, making our students better. I probably won't vote at all for this amendment, rather than vote no, but it saddens me that we are putting this up. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise again in support of this amendment. I also believe very strongly in this program, and as long as we keep it in the statutes I think it does send a message that we are making this commitment to the highest quality teachers who complete it and, of course, high quality teaching translates to high quality learning. And so it's something that we, as a body, when we amended it into the original bill, felt very strongly about, but right now we're talking about priorities and limited funds for the rest of the session. And it's in that spirit that I bring it. I...it was hard to do but I think we're going to have lots of hard decisions to make here at the end, and this is a decision that we'll be making. It comes from the Legislature.