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teachers organization to increase salaries for teachers, and they had a whole program based on that called HELP. And it was astounding to me, and I've said this before on the floor, but it was absolutely unbelievable to me at that time that we were paying teachers, and they were all women, believe me, women teachers out in some of those rural school districts who had been teaching school for 20 years or more, we were paying them \$14,000 a year because they didn't need the money. Now is that what we base our decisions on around here, is whether people need the money or not? Or do we base it on their worth in the workplace? What kind of a message are we sending to teenagers if we tell them that they only get what we think they need and not what other people are getting paid? They, in some cases, work just as hard. They, in some cases, probably produce even better, as somebody has already said, than the adults. It really kind of reminds me of George Orwell and Animal Farm and the way wages and necessities were allotted in that fictional story about Communism. Some pigs are equal...all pigs are equal, but some pigs are more equal than others, was the gist of the story, and I'm having some reminders of that little tale here today. Two...I'm getting a little philosophical. I guess Senator Chambers kind of started us off in this direction. But two underlying, very basic principles of our democracy are that the wealth will be distributed so that there's not the extremes that we have in some of the countries in this world. I don't know how many of you have been watching the pictures on TV of the war in Iraq, but I've been appalled to see the number of palaces and the amount of wealth that was held by Saddam Hussein when there were people in his country who didn't have enough to eat and enough clothes for their back. That is true in dictatorship after dictatorship throughout our entire world. The other underlying principle of our democracy and what really makes it work is that we have a free public education system for everybody so that everybody is educated and can go out and do a job and get...and get paid to the best of their abilities. Those are just two fundamental principles underlying the success of our country. And how can we ignore the growing disparity between the very wealthy in this country and the very poor in our country? We do that at great risk to our democracy, at great risk, in my opinion. If most people are already making \$7 or \$8 an hour, why is there so much opposition to this bill? It