

support your amendment, but I want it perfectly clear that everybody, every teacher should share in this money. I believe that what we need to do if we adopt the Withem amendment is then go ahead and amend the bill saying that all of this money will be based on performance, because I don't believe that we have gotten too much good out of the 20 million that we appropriated each year for the last two years, because we still don't know if our school children are getting a better education, and whether we are developing better teachers, or whether more people are entering the teaching profession. And I would still rather see we distribute this money to the local school boards, and then they go ahead and do it. Here we say to the teachers, you are going to receive a paycheck from the state. You are also going to receive a paycheck from the local school district, and I just don't approve of that. Have we changed the tenure system any? No, we haven't. So it is still hard for a school board to get rid of a poor teacher. They keep lingering on, and I just don't think that is fair. But I am going to support Senator Withem's amendment. I think this is a step in the right direction and I would like to see it go a little further. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. The next speaker is Senator Robinson. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? We are voting on ceasing debate. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Withem, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would, and then I know Senator Moore wanted to speak and was not afforded the opportunity, so I would like to give him a little bit of my closing time, but I am urging you to adopt this amendment. We have had an interesting discussion surrounding this amendment. Just a couple of things I would like to respond to; one, Senator Landis's recollection that the intent of this legislation be to provide a one-time infusion of money and then not renew it on an ongoing basis. I don't think that ever was the intent. The bill was introduced without a sunset. It did not have a sunset on it until the next to the last day of the session two years ago. So, I mean, I recognize his right to