

nothing to do with the defeat of that particular amendment. Secondly, I know the majority of people in this body supported 1059, hopefully you supported it because you understood it. There is nothing in 1059 that created any new money to go to any education improvement or advancement or enhancement. The two concepts were different. LB 1059 went to fund the ongoing programs of education, funding it at the state level instead of at the local level. As a matter of fact, when we put a budgetary limitation on local school districts with 1059, we probably restricted their abilities to bring about any type of educational improvement or any type of educational enhancement. The basic question I think the Hall amendment gets to is shall we change what is now the recommendation of the General Affairs Committee as far as distribution of these monies. In other words, should all of the money that is in LB 849, that will be gathered by 849, should it all go to educational enhancement and improvement. Senator Hall's amendment says no. And I think reluctantly I have to agree with him, no, it probably shouldn't. It probably should be for those types of cutting-edge education improvement programs that can be funded that really will make a difference in the area of education. Somebody I know earlier here had indicated that we have done a lot for education. We have done a lot of improvements in the area of education. I am very proud of the types of policy changes that have come forward in the last several years since I have been a member of the Legislature, but what have we done as far as putting the few dollars into the hands of the local people to bring about genuine education improvement, enhancement? We shifted funding in 1059. We gave \$20 million for teachers salaries and you saw what a hassle we had this year when we tried to make that something other than just money in the pockets of teachers, and that is okay, that is another fight. But what have we done as far as promoting new ways to teach mathematics? What have we done to empower teachers at a given building? What have we done to provide greater technical assistance for education? Precious little. Really, precious little. If you look at the handout that was prepared by my committee counsel, and look at all of the different ideas we have had; gifted education programs, merit pay programs, Career Teacher Incentive Act, incentives for community education, vocational education, school restructuring, accountability, on and on and on, and we just have not had the will, as a body, to put even seed money behind those.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.