

in our state for teaching. I am looking for a way, because...and I am looking this year, because I have a sense of urgency. I don't want to wait until we drop back down to 42nd, or even lower than that before we do something about teacher pay in this state. LB 1059, from my perspective, was designed to raise taxes, sales taxes and income taxes for the purpose of supporting education in this state. I'm sorry, Senator Moore, but I'm part of the 97 percent that didn't see you on public TV, or hear you on public radio in terms of talking about how part of this 1059 dollars would go towards the roads. I will also tell you as part of my own campaign, in speaking in many forums, that most of the people that I visited with did not understand that it was going to go for...that any portion of it would be going into the roads. Ignorance is never an excuse here, but I...but I do believe that a vast number of the people out there, when they voted for 1059, were saying we are ready to deal with higher taxes, if they are going to support education. And in fact, part of the district that I represented, District 66, did not receive any benefits from 1059. But when I looked at the voting results, they supported 1059 because of their commitment to good education in this state, for all of this state. Perhaps I would have to say that if we would have made a policy decision a couple of years ago that all that 1059 dollars was going to go for education, you wouldn't be saying today that I'm trying to raid or steal from the Highway Trust Fund. I have never felt like I'm trying to divert that money, or steal that money because I never believed it should have been there in the first place. You made that policy decision a couple of years ago, but I've been gently reminded several times that one Legislature cannot make decisions for...for all time in the future. And I'm suggesting that we need to reexamine that policy decision, that all of the money from 1059 should go towards education. I've heard a lot of words used about why the roads Highway Trust Fund is set up like it is. It's a matter of absolute survival. It's a matter of the fact that it's so expensive. It's a matter of it takes long-range planning to do a good job. I would suggest to you that all of those words apply to education. It is a matter of survival in this state to have quality education, and teaching is a critical element of making that happen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: One of the things that's been very frustrating to me as a new kid on the block is that I don't object to roads. I think it should be one of our highest