

have come to our attention in the last week that lead us to believe that I think at this time to expand the program and increase the costs as we do under this proposal by Governor Thone is wrong. Now my feeling is that property tax relief was the most important subject that this Legislature in this session should address. My feeling is that we dealt with that subject through the state aid increase that we proposed, twenty million dollar increments up to sixty million dollars, and that at least a majority of the members of this Legislature feel is the way that we are going to provide the property tax relief that this state needs this year. Now my feeling is that providing a program of property tax relief that is targeted to individuals who need it most is personalized property tax relief program such as Senator DeCamp and others have proposed, is the better means of providing tax relief, but I think the decision in this session by this Legislature is not to go that route, but rather to follow the tried and true method of state aid increases to education, and my feeling is that that is adequate. Perhaps it isn't innovative but that is a decision I think we have made this session, and so now to add on top of that a new program, a program that is expanded and costly at this time is wrong, and that we ought to more seriously consider what we are doing with the changes that we are providing and proposing in this new amendment that Governor Thone has proposed to LB 647. We have got many needs in this state, many expenditures that have been examined and need to be made that are going to be more productive than what we are considering at this time with the present Thone amendments on the bill. The feeling we should have, I believe, is that at a time when we are cutting back and we are watching the budget and we are trying to do everything we can to save tax dollars, we are at this very same moment talking about expanding a program and expanding a program in a way that perhaps is not in the best fashion possible. It is a new idea. It is one that I thought was a good idea and I supported its advancement from General File, but under the circumstances now I think it is wrong to continue with this amendment on the bill, and I think we ought to go back to the original proposal. We should increase the actual value limit and the income limits that we have now in the present Homestead Exemption program. I strongly support those changes. But to expand that program at this time is wrong, and I am speaking as a young person who would benefit from these changes as being someone who is under 65 and would be able to provide for the first time some tax relief through the Homestead Exemption program, but even as someone who would personally benefit from such a program, I think it is wrong