

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the Koch amendment. Occasionally there is justification to support amendments that will make a bad bill not quite as bad but in this case I assume that probably we are better off to leave the bill as it is. Receipts are down. I don't think the 2½ million for one year is there any more than the receipts are available for a whole lot of other things. At some point we have to make priorities. I do not believe that we can pick this up this year. I certainly don't think we should make the commitment for this year the continuance to next year knowing that substantial adjustments are going to be made in all probability with many of these programs which federal funds are part of whatever the reduction under existing law, whatever the reduction is in federal funds. The state picks up 100% of that reduction. Local...county government is responsible for 16% of the total and if the federal funds go down they still are responsible only for that 16% of the total but the state will be responsible for all of the funds that the federal government does not provide and there is no question that there will be substantial change and I think the state needs to retain the maximum flexibility to absorb those costs. Next year there is going to have to be, in my opinion, there is going to be significant adjustment in programs that are funded. Significant adjustment in programs that are authorized by law, some I think are going to have to be eliminated. I would think that it is a far better approach would be just to adopt an amendment similar to one that we did on a bill yesterday, which motion I will offer before the bill is read on Final Reading which is merely to bracket LB 39 until the next session and let us consider it then so we can see the full impact of all of the ramifications that are inevitable for the 1982 session. I would hope that we would not further complicate those problems by adding to the state burden this year knowing full well that we are going to have substantial increases next year to consider in any event. But I can not support the amendment because obviously it is designed to make it easier to pass. I don't think that it should be made easier to pass. It is not easy for me to do this because I have made this statement before. But I was in here fighting for property tax relief when no one else was in here except Senator Kremer was on the same side. But the conditions are such that I can not in good conscience support added burden to the state financial responsibility knowing full well what we are faced with. So I would urge that the amendment not be adopted and that we bracket the bill until next session rather than consider it today.