

soon verify that that will receive a veto and I don't think the votes are here to override it, maybe they are. I hope they are because we need property tax relief. But this bill is the only other thing that might pass for property tax relief this session. It is the only other thing that we can do to help relieve our tax payers, over burdened property tax payers who pay better than 50% of all state and local revenues for property taxes. Frankly we ought to have some assurances or give the county some assurances that these costs are going to be alleviated in a reasonable manner. To phase out 2% a year until we reach 10%. Frankly I think we ought to phase it out completely as most other states in the union have done. But this take what you can get sort of philosophy is really going to create some problems for us if the cuts that we have seen coming from the federal government persist. Next year we have no idea what those costs are going to be and the year after I predict that they could in fact be very dramatic because the federal government is shifting back to the states and consequently to the counties a greater share of those costs. This legislature has at least some power to hold those costs down. The counties do not. This legislature ought to come up with the dollars to do that. This amendment basically is the philosophy, take what you can get and run. It is not the kind of policy decision this legislature ought to be making in regard to medicaid funding. We ought to be making a long term systematic and assured commitment that we as a legislature will take the responsibility that has really become a state and federal responsibility, not a county responsibility. I urge rejection of the Koch amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle, on the Koch amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members I spoke awhile ago on the Koch amendment so I will not take much time. As those of you that worked with, I'm not sure....the number I believe is 199, I'm not sure, when Senator Goodrich and I had this same issue up two years ago. It was compromised then. We had a four year program set up whereby we would have taken the medical vendor payments from 20% down to 10%. The deal was made at that time, so this isn't the first time that we have compromised our principles, I guess. I think Senator Newell is right in what he says. I feel the same way, but for some of the same reasons that he has mentioned that we don't know what the federal government is going to do. We don't know what the income of the State of Nebraska is going to be. I would want to stress this one thing that Senator Koch mentioned and that all of you know but you may sometimes forget. That money is going to be spend no matter what we do here this morning.