

education. Anything less than that is a temporary cure. I don't have to remind you that in the last few months if there is anything I have heard repeatedly is that when you promise something to happen on taxes, and it doesn't quite come out that way, you are going get pushed around a lot. I will suggest to you if you vote for 50 million on the assumption that you are reducing property taxes, you will be spending most of your time explaining to your constituents why their property taxes still went up because they will. Fifty million does not solve the problem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senators Scofield, Lamb, and Wesely.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I certainly appreciate the in depth report that Senator Withem gave us and also, likewise, Senator Warner, and I think both of their words of wisdom should be noted by everyone. I, too, am one of the signers on the resolution and I won't be redundant in what Senator Withem has said, but all of us, property tax is something that we must address. I have no axe to grind, not one minute, with any member of the Appropriations Committee and in their deliberations and their proposals. Simply what this would do so that the money is not nicked and dimed away and promised away on many, many proposals is to set that money aside right now and then, at the end of the session, be determined by the Legislature what we do to give us some property tax relief. I admit it may call for an increase in tax, Senator Smith's food tax proposal, or we may or may not be able to address Senator Lamb's proposal. Senator Lamb's proposal would come under the guidance of LB 275, but I think that we need to let the people know that we are serious in addressing the property tax. I also am aware if salaries are increased on the state level, the university level, the state colleges, and so on, you can't have it both ways. You cannot promise property tax relief and turn around and give it on the other side of the coin. Also the Governor's proposal to refund 18.2 million, that may be very well but, again, property tax relief, the average person out there is the person that I am concerned about, and this resolution, then, pertains to that. I won't take any more time but that is simply...nothing against the Appropriations Committee but set that money aside for property tax relief and do it in the first part of the session. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please.