

closing, and then I would like to give Senator Chizek the remainder of my closing time, is I find it very, very interesting that, and, again, I will pick on the university because it is the big one that comes to mind, but you can say social services, Department of Aging, arts, anything else we fund, Department of Public Institutions, anything else we fund, whenever those folks come in and ask for an increased appropriation, we never say to them, yes, but identify your revenue source. Where are we going to raise the money to give the university professors a salary increase? Where are we going to raise the money to build a new computer center across the street from here? Where are we going to raise the money to remodel Cushing Auditorium? It is always assumed that within the state budget there is room for those types of projects. The budget can always grow to accommodate ongoing state government projects. It is only in this area that is where the funding is shared with property taxpayers, aid to subdivisions, state aid to schools, state aid to municipalities, state aid to counties, that we tell those people, fine, we would sure like to do it but you tell us where we are going to raise the revenues. I can say this bill does not talk about raising revenues. If when it gets out here on General file, you want to amend it, Senator Moore, to include a revenue source in it, you are welcome to do that, but I don't think it is absolutely necessary we treat our property taxpayers as if they are second class citizens. I think it is important that we end that. With that, I would like to give Senator Chizek the remainder of my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chizek, about 2 1/2 minutes.

SENATOR CHIZEK: I will be brief, and then if there is any time left, I will yield it to Senator Bernard-Stevens. Just a few brief comments, we have heard a lot of conversation this morning, but I think it is critical, absolutely critical, colleagues, that we send a message that we are going to begin a long difficult journey, and we can begin that journey this morning. I think there probably is some debate in terms of the kinds of dollars available. We will look at that as we go on down the line. As Senator Withem said earlier, there were a number of bills dealing with this very critical issue, different kinds of approaches, but I think the message that we send this morning is one that we are going to begin this long difficult tedious journey, and with that, I would yield the balance to Senator Stevens.