

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the Withem amendment, Senator Lynch, your light is on next. Would you care to discuss it? Thank you. Senator Hall, on the Withem amendment. Senator Abboud. Senator Abboud, would you care to discuss the amendment? Senator Korshoj, on the amendment.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I don't know if it's on his amendment or not, but we've spent all morning discussing this bill. We've got a lot more mornings to discuss it and if there is a lot of yes votes out here, let's put a 1 percent sales tax on it to finance this bill into the future. Let's find out if these yes voters are willing to support this bill. We can debate this morning after morning after morning. If we get it to Final Reading without this 1 percent sales tax, the bill won't get any money on Final Reading anyway. We will have wasted all this time and when we start putting our priorities together on Final Reading there will be no money for it. So if we're going to vote yes, let's vote yes with some funding to this bill. The bill has never made a lot of sense to me without any funding and I would like to see how many people are willing to fund the bill and now is the time to find out. So I reckon I support Withem's amendment and Schmit's amendment both. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I think Senator Schmit and Senator Withem have the right idea here. I've told the teachers when they've come to me, when you show me how this is going to be funded down the road and isn't going to devolve back to a property tax increase later, I can see some support building in the body. If, in fact, that this sales tax that Senator Schmit is talking about is genuine property tax relief, the people in my district say if a sales tax increase is necessary to fund a property tax relief measure, then we will support that. But if it goes anywhere else, anywhere else, we are not in favor of any sales tax increase. I would support this. We must put our money where our mouth is if we're going to have a bill of this nature. Without it, it's a moot point. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, would you care to discuss the amendment to the amendment?