

That's where my vote will go.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, another question of Senator Withem. Now when you first got up and explained this amendment I said, aha, he's finally doing something I like because I thought you were saying a half cent would just go to teachers' salaries. That's not what it does. You're saying you're just making it a half cent sales tax increase as opposed to a cent and it would still be distributed the same way. It would still be...half of that money would go to...explain it to me again.

SENATOR WITHEM: No, I...I'm...no, Senator Lamb asked a question and he got to the essence of what I'm doing. What I'm doing with this amendment is leaving everything else as it is. Currently, Senator Schmit's...if Senator Schmit's amendment is adopted, the bill will give \$40 million to teachers' salaries and it will raise approximately \$50 million for property tax relief. The point I'm arguing is we have enough money in our reserve, I think even the Governor's proposal puts enough money in our...that much money in our reserve, says there's that much money in our reserve to fund the property tax relief portion, we only need to raise one-half cent sales tax to fund this, not the full half cent (sic).

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, well, in that case then I will oppose your amendment, Senator Withem, just as I oppose...

SENATOR WITHEM: Can I explain it differently then?

SENATOR MOORE: No. Well, yes, if you would explain like I originally understood it because I think it's important, and this is the overlying principle, I think it applies to Senator Schmit's amendment, too, that we don't marry property taxes and teachers' salaries. Now, I think all of you members of the body got a letter from the York Chamber in my district. They have a letter supporting 89 but the whole rationale that we're supporting 89 was the fact that it contained property tax relief. Well, to support it under 89, under the color of property tax relief is ridiculous because 89, unless you support Senator Schmit's amendment, does nothing on property tax relief. And if we need a...you may need a half cent sales tax to fund it