

cent and we're saying of that half a cent or 50 million, approximately, or 52 million, approximately, a year, that will go into...all of that, all of that will go into funding of LB 89. And then what Senator Withem also has done with this amendment is said, oh, by the way, I believe we do have in the General Fund this year enough money, specifically \$50 million for each of the next two years for the biennial, that we we can go ahead and put 50 million this year into general revenue funds for property tax relief, another 50 million next year, total of \$100 million for property tax relief. And I think that's where we're at on the Withem amendment. I would have to, at this point, agree with Senator Moore. I also believe that I will be voting against the Schmit amendment, though I always find it difficult to go against my good friend, Senator Schmit, on something that I know he believes very sincerely on. But I can't help but think that we, as a body, have always said that if we're going to do property tax, let's do so, and if we're going to raise sales tax, it would be with the idea that we're going to raise the sales tax for property tax relief. I'm not sure the, at least the people in 42nd District would buy the raising of sales tax for funding teachers' salaries. I guess I feel that the money is there in the General Fund, as the Teachers' Association has been saying all the time that we should use that money then to fund the salary. If we think it's not there, then let's go ahead and put a tax on it. The Withem amendment, in essence, says that the money is, in fact, there. If we can put a 100 million into property tax relief, we can put the same 100 million into funding the teacher salary in LB 89. So, hopefully, that's helpful to some members of the body to find exactly where we are at this point. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, let me...there's some confusion with the way this is drafted. Let me tell you what my intent is and I'm probably going to change the amendment and withdraw this one. The reason I'm offering this amendment is...Senator Moore, I agree with you a 100 percent, and I don't want to marry the two ideas together. Right now, what I'm trying to do is offer an amendment that if the Schmit amendment gets adopted, would allow me to see this bill in what I think is a better form. I prefer keeping the two concepts separate. The idea of...particularly, the idea of raising half a cent sales tax to