

that's where the difference between the more pessimistic forecast that's coming from our own fiscal office versus the more optimistic projection from the economic research associates begins to differ, begins to break down. I think, and I've got another amendment up here that I think we can wait and sunset this whole proposal when we see which of these two scenarios is more likely to unfold. But at this time for those of you who wish to make sure that the money is there for the teacher salary increase, and can support it on that basis, this gives you the opportunity to do it. The main thrust then of this amendment is the taking the property tax relief portion out of the bill, that's primarily what it does. And Senator Moore convinced me, a few minutes ago, that this is probably the right thing to do. The Education Committee was convinced it's not right to marry property tax relief and teacher's salaries. That's what this amendment does. We have on the floor of the Legislature numerous property tax relief measures to consider. We will be debating Senator Moore's LB 611, which is almost a good bill. And if we would do some of the things that are in the interim report here, the School Finance Review Commission, we could make that an excellent bill, I think. We have Senator Lamb's bill. We have Senator Chizek's bill. We have the Governor's proposal, whether it comes to the floor in that form or the amendment, I'm sure it will be considered, many, many avenues to accomplish property tax relief. I think it's probably unfair to those individuals that brought us Lb 89 that wanted to discuss whether or not teacher's salaries need to be increased or whether it's not the role of the Legislature to increase teacher's salaries. That's a fair public policy debate. This amendment will return us back to that debate. And I think those people that brought us this proposal, those people in your districts that have been lobbying you in favor of this, those people in your districts that have been lobbying you against this really deserve a fair up or down vote on their proposal, not to have it mucked around with this whole concept of property tax relief when we have many, many other avenues to accomplish property tax relief. This amendment again is not printed, but very easily...it's something anybody can understand. It doesn't have to be printed in the Journal and adjusted. What it does, it strikes the property tax relief portion of the Schmit amendment, leaving the bill as a nonproperty tax relief bill, a pure teacher salary sort of bill, as your Education Committee brought the bill to you. It will then give you the opportunity, after we amend the Schmit amendment, to decide whether or not we need a half cent sales tax to fund the teacher pay portion of the bill. Simply,