

taxes, whereas sales tax we wouldn't, and we would be sending more money to Washington, which I don't feel we need to do. So I do support the concept of 611 and I think now is the time for this body to start moving in this direction and support Senator Moore's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to continue on with my comments I was making previously regarding the work of the School Finance Review Commission. There is kind of a frustration level here I know on this issue, and there appears to be somewhat of a frustration level on the floor, that what Senator Moore is proposing is a half step as opposed to a full step. We are not taking the full step into completing a system so that we can have a neat little printout in front of us so that we can see exactly how many dollars go to East Butler School as opposed to Rising City Schools, and Seward, and Papillion, and all the other schools in the state, but we are just not there yet. There has been a gridlock on this issue in our state for generations on how you best finance education. Everybody that looks at the issue with any degree of sophistication says you have got too high of property taxes. Anybody who looks at it with any degree of sophistication says you have got a problem...because of the way you finance schools, you have the property tax problems. But as far as taking that first step to ultimately resolving it, we have difficulties doing that. What Senator Moore is offering us is that half step, and with any half step, if we get down the road and we don't like it, we can always step back. But by enacting this half step into the statute at least commits us to look at it very, very seriously and I think that is, basically, what we are doing. You know, we do things differently today than maybe we have in the past, and one of those things we have been doing more of in recent years is committing ourselves in increments as opposed to saying, unless we take the full leap, let's not even get off the shore. And that is what we are going here, basically. As far as what the Public School Finance Commission has been looking at and what it tentatively is concluding might help some of you with a better understanding of what we are leaning toward. In leaning toward, we can make any number of proposal, any number of shifts, changes, adjustments before we reach final enactment of anything a year from now, but we are looking at a plan of financing schools similar to what they do in Kansas. What do they do in Kansas that is different from