

in this proposal. I think it's high time that even though we're a nonpartisan Legislature, there are elements of bipartisan support for this, I think it's good. I think it's very important, at least from my perspective, that we view LB 84 as a short-term, stop-gap proposal to provide some property tax relief, while we remain committed to solving the overall problem. I think if we pass LB 84 and if you say it's...if you pass it with the intention of it becoming permanent, I think you've done a disservice to the State of Nebraska, because you're not solving the property tax problem in any way, shape or form, you're just providing some relief, which is more than we're doing right now, but you're really abstaining from doing your job of really solving the problem, in my opinion. So I think it's important to point out once again that LB 84 has a sunset date of two years on it. And we're saying that for two years we're going to provide this property tax shift, or relief, whatever you choose to call it, and to the tune of about \$95 million a year. I think that is good. But one other thing I do want to mention that is a concern to me, but I'm obviously supporting this bill today, is that I guess I was the one person in the gang of four that had some concerns about the funding on it. We always know that, we've always known that, and I think it's something we have to address. But I do want to mention for the record, as I have said before, providing our state budget does not increase any more than 9 or 10 percent, if necessary to provide property tax relief this year I am willing to support some sort of tax increase for that sort of tax shift, as long as it guarantees some tax relief for the property taxpayer, which LB 84 does. So, with that having been said, I urge the adoption of...the advancement of LB 84.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, discussion on the bill itself, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in praise of my colleagues who have worked together on this proposal and compromise. Not necessarily that we've reached the ultimate solution to the issue, but at least in my estimation it is the Legislature operating at its finest. I want to commend Senator Lamb and Senator Moore and Senator Chizek and Senator Hall and the other individuals that have been involved in trying to reach a compromise on this issue. What it points out is some times this unique system of a nonpartisan, Unicameral Legislature can, in fact, work in that unique way to better policy for our state. Sometimes nothing happens as a result of