

year or in the years after that. I think you're making a grave mistake. Because I think with 611, as it's now written, you're basically, conceptually buying into doing something. And it is my opinion hopefully that we're going to at least do something on the local income tax line. But if you strip that found...if you strip...if you adopt Senator Warner's amendment, you've taken the hammer away, you've taken the deadline away, and my prediction is you'll probably do nothing next year because you won't have to. And I think it's come to the point, over years and years, that it's time that we do something like this. And though I will concur with Senator Warner, I think it's important that LB 89, if it in turn does finally pass into law, I think it should be considered like foundation equalization and considered separately of categorical aid. And I will be working on that issue as LB 89 continues on Final Reading. But just because the body didn't see the light on that amendment yesterday, I urge them to not back down from their commitment on 611, that we're going to do something with the property tax structure and really try and perform some major surgery and really, really accomplish a tax shift in the next 12 months. With that, I oppose Senator Warner's amendment.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Haberman.

**SENATOR HALL:** Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise in opposition to Senator Warner's amendment, even though he states that it simply strikes the provision that would sunset the foundation and equalization formulas as we know them. It...and he's right, it merely does that. But it comes as close to, I guess, gutting the bill as you possibly can without literally doing that, because the...as Senator Moore pointed out, the bill does need those provisions so that folks will sit down and take a look, through the school finance review commission that both he and Senator Lamb are a member of, Senator Withem chairs. They will sit down and take a look at this funding issue that is, I think, probably paramount to all the school districts in the state and to the whole issue of our reliance on property tax for the funding of education. It is the measure by which people will know that the Legislature is very serious about changing the way in which we finance education at the elementary and the secondary level. I think that, if you adopt Senator Warner's amendment, that you in essence take away any incentive, if you will, to move toward the change in our financing system for education. It is a, I think, an amendment that cripples the