

remembered after we leave it. We are really on the verge, this session of making some very, very major changes, or at least putting into effect the process that will lead to some very, very major changes in the way in which we do things in this state. We are, for once, grabbing ahold of tough, difficult issues and are proposing solutions and are grinding out solutions to those proposals. The last bill, not just because it's...my name is on it, but because of all of the hard work that lots of people have put into it, is an example of that. We are not saying anymore, we're frustrated with higher ed. We're putting into effect some things that will bring about changes. The property tax issue, the one that probably there is not more greater unanimity of opinion on in November of even numbered years, by members of this body, when we're out there running for election, there is no more unanimity of opinion on any other issue other than that one, we're all in favor of lowering property taxes. Then when we adjourn the Legislature in April or May, we go back to our constituents and say, gosh, we tried, but the body just wasn't willing to do anything. Through the leadership of Senators Moore, Lamb, Chizek and Hall we have a package of two bills out here that are going to make us make a commitment to lower property taxes in this state. Senator Moore is offering the framework of a lasting solution to the property tax problem, through changing the way in which we fund schools. Soon as we deal with this bill, we'll be dealing with Senator Lamb's LB 84, which makes a major commitment to property tax reduction, very major, to the tune of \$94 million. Whether or not that solution becomes a permanent solution, or whether when it sunsets those dollars will flow into another way of relieving property taxes is yet to be determined. A key, key component to our putting in place the forces that will lead to lasting property tax relief is this bill of Senator Moore's, LB 611. And the key to that bill, the very heart of that bill is the repeal of our current state aid to education formula. The way in which we fund schools at the state level today does not result in property tax reduction. It is a small sum of money. It is distributed in such a fashion as it does not impact on property tax relief in the areas that need property tax relief, it is not sustainable property tax relief, just putting more money into our current funding formula, something I've stood on this floor and expounded upon favorably a number of times but just doing that is not going to lead to lasting property tax relief. To lower property taxes in the aggregate, in the long term you have to shift the way in which we fund education. We're making that commitment through LB 611 and the repeal of