

you who came by my desk earlier, but the latest number is \$6.4 million the first year. We're talking about an additional \$6.4 million if the cap is removed. Now when I originally introduced the bill four years ago it did not have a cap. It was the thinking of this body at that time and it seems to me, in all probability at this time, that the cap is a logical way to go. You know, we talk about fairness and, of course, the Legislature continues to strive to create a taxing system that is fair. And I might point out that we have a progressive income tax. Now if you were going to assess a progressive income tax on the same basis, you would say maybe that's unfair because the rate gets higher as you go up in the scale. So you are collecting more money from...from different...a different group. So I guess that is the thinking that this bill may not be perfect in that respect but this is the closest thing that we can get to having a workable bill that can pass the Legislature and to get at the real problem, the real basic problem that we have in this state and that's that property taxes are too high. So I would encourage you to vote against the McFarland amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chizek, please, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR CHIZEK: I rise to oppose Senator McFarland's amendment. As I told Senator McFarland the last time when we debated this bill that I didn't think it was slipshod put together, I didn't think it was difficult to understand. I think the \$2,000 cap is equitable and I think the \$2,000 cap is fair. I guess if, from time to time around here, if we don't like something, we say that it's probably unconstitutional. I have some strong questions in my mind as basically I don't believe there is a constitutional problem and be interested to see what the Attorney General says. We have had two or three different questions asked at the same time and get two or three different opinions back. It's dependent on who responds, I guess. But the length of time that it's been taking to get some of these responses, Senator McFarland, you probably won't get it this year. But, in any event, I strongly oppose Senator McFarland's amendment. I think there is equity into it. I understand what Senator Byars said but, by the same token, I think if we don't do something on the whole property tax scenario this year that we have...that we'll have our hands full as we go down the line. I...I know my constituents, as I have talked to them on many of the meetings that we have had, have very strong feelings that