

of cooks that have put this broth together. None of us should take credit nor blame individually, but, collectively, we have to vote on this and I think what we do is we send the message that, yes, this is a first step we take on property tax relief. It is going to be a difficult two years down the road to get to, hopefully, the end that LB 611 provides for us, and there is much work yet to be done. Senator Withem's committee has a lot of work to do in terms of finding proposals that fit 850 odd school districts so that they are able to function, so that there is 93 counties out there that say, yeah, we can live with this, and that there is a Legislature made up of 49 members with diverse backgrounds and diverse interests that say, yes, this is a proposal that we can live with. This shift, this rewrite of how we pay for education makes good sense. It is not a short term problem that can be solved overnight. It has been debated for 22 years, since we took on the income and the sales tax as our source of income, our source of revenue at the state level, and said local governments take the property tax. What we do now is we adopt this amendment, we move LB 84 over, and we pass it, and we come back next year and deal with the level that we can provide the same sort of property tax relief at, and in the meantime, we work on it making the shift that ultimately we all agree has to be made. What form it takes, how it happens we work on, but the fact is is that it has to be made. None of us can turn our back on that, and we will do it, but we need to take this first step in order to provide that first part of property tax relief that is so sorely needed. With that, Mr. President, I would urge that the body return LB 84 so that we can adopt the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, on the motion to return.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Those in favor of ceasing debate please vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Lamb, would you care to close?

SENATOR LAMB: I'd just urge the body to return the bill to