

persuasive argument and that is that we're starting...and Senator Moore, that we're starting a process of property tax relief, I think that's the one argument that persuades me to some extent that we ought to at least put into effect a property tax relief measure because next year we're going to do more of it. I'm certainly intrigued by Senator Moore's bill on local option income tax for reduction of property tax but I think it's troublesome for me, at best, to vote for LB 84 as it is. It would be extremely troublesome and, in fact, in my opinion, would just make LB 84 totally ineffective if we were to knock off 40 million and we might as well vote against it. So, with those comments, I would...I would not support the Warner amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schimek, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of the Warner amendment. I liked Senator Crosby's allusion to a cake recipe when putting together the state budget and I would like to remind this body that we can't have our cake and eat it too. We have been nibbling away at the cake for quite a few weeks now and I think that perhaps the time has come when we are starting to prioritize, when we have to start prioritizing. I would like to just say, Senator Withem, before I make my remarks, that I have not voted for LB 84 on either reading and I did support the Warner amendment so I think that I started prioritizing back a ways. If...if LB 84 were a kind of property tax relief that I thought could be sustainable and that were a true property tax relief, I would be willing to support that very much. But I don't like the way the bill is written and I don't think it's going to be a meaningful property tax relief. I would sooner send aid back to the local subdivisions. Many of those subdivisions are hurting right now. Some of them are at the mill levy limit and I think that that would be much more meaningful kind of property tax relief. But, as it is, with nothing really before us at this time anyway to do that, I am going to support the Warner amendment. And I remember back when we did return money to the citizens and the next session we came back and had a special session because we were already in trouble. And I'm afraid that's what we're going to...what's going to happen this time. I think that perhaps Senator Warner is going to be able to tell us in another year or so, aha, I told you so. I think our first responsibility is to the state budget and I think that we need to be prepared for that rainy