

not a near fatal blow, but a very significant blow and you're basically saying, no, we're not going to do that much. We're not willing to do it because teachers, they're going to sit there and fight for their increase, their chunk. When you do that, it's just like every time we give an exemption on property taxes now or income taxes now or sales tax now, if you divorce that segment out of it, you're asking for problems. I think it's the only...it just simply makes sense, as Senator Warner said when he offered his amendment to LB 611, I think LB 89 should be treated as state aid to education, for if you don't, I'm afraid that the body is already beginning to renege on its hope that it's going to do something next year for property tax. I think it's very, very important. I know there are many people that don't want amendments adopted to this bill, but I think this one is important enough that we should do it. With that, I simply ask for its adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Withem, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes. I would oppose the Moore amendment, although I think when Senator Haberman offered this on Select File I indicated it did have a sense of appeal to it. I think in many ways when we're looking at school finance in a global arena, looking at all the different factors that go into it, we are going to be sunsetting this program, if not by this amendment, it will happen anyway in sense of what a sunset is all about, and that is an assurance that a program receives a thorough review a couple of years down the road, that it does just not automatically continue. We're going to be looking at all different aspects of school finance, we have already. We're going to be looking at things like what needs to be in categorical aid, what doesn't, all of those things. It will happen anyway, I think, without the Moore amendment. Secondly, I guess I would point out to the body Senator Moore would lead you to believe, or you might choose to believe, he would never purposely lead you to believe anything that wasn't 100 percent accurate, but you may misinterpret some of the things he's saying when he talks about what we're doing in 611. LB 611, we are sunsetting a portion of the state dollars that go to support public education in our state. We are sunsetting \$133 million worth of expenditures. There are many other things that are not being sunsetted in 611. We are not sunsetting special education, for instance, it will continue on at its current level. We are not sunsetting, in LB 611, I don't think anyway,