

that, if you're going to do it with that, you better do it here, because if you're going to take this off the table, so to speak, and say we're going to do this and make sure it's clear to all the teachers in the state that this is long-standing program, obviously from the time we pass this bill, the next battle is what will the dollar figure be next time and, obviously, there will be attempts to raise that. Senator Withem talks about, and if I misled anyone, I apologize. I don't think I did. I think he tried to mislead all of you into believing that I tried to mislead you, but I didn't. I said foundation and equalization. For those of you that are familiar with all the dollars in school finance, 133 million in foundation and equalization, if I remember Senator Kristensen's handout yesterday, \$73 million is in special education, and there are a variety of other things, but the big ticket item, obviously, is foundation and equalization. And there is a lot of difference, in my opinion, between teachers salaries and special education, which the other big chunk is. I think it's very obvious for all of us. But I'm also disappointed in Senator Withem, who is Chairman of the School Finance Review Commission, which Senator Lamb and myself also sit on, to say that he is not wanting to consider this I think is wrong. I think he's endangering the whole process by saying that, yes, I want to restructure the tax system, I want to restructure (inaudible) state aid, but I really like this teacher program, I want to keep it that way. Either you put it all on the table, or maybe you shouldn't do it at all, which pains me to say that. But I'm concerned, like Senator Warner said, if you leave it this way, and if you're like my particular district where actually the formula in LB 89 is more favorable than the straight state aid, that temptation is going to be there, that temptation is going to be there. We talked at great lengths about the importance of how our bill yesterday was stopgap, how we're going to work on the long term and put our money where our mouth is, to use Senator Warner's terms, we're going to create a crisis. But, if you don't include LB 89 money in that, that crisis is not quite what it is, and it's almost more of a dangerous situation, because what you have is a state aid formula that is very much more favorable to some people than others. And also what you're saying is, no, yeah, we're kind of serious about restructuring the tax system, but we're not that serious, because teacher salaries is more important than property taxes and we're afraid to consider them together. I think it's very, very important to the future success of this Legislature restructuring the tax system to place this sunset in LB 89.