

vital part of that; that LB 611 was the only way in which...I mean it's not the only way we could do it, but it's the only proposal before us now that can lead us toward long-term property tax relief. You cannot have long-term property tax relief as long as 75 percent of the cost of education comes out of property taxes. It just will not happen. Property tax relief and school finance are so closely intertwined that it's really impossible to have long-lasting property tax relief without a different method of financing education. LB 611, as introduced by Senator Moore, yes, did have a specific answer on how that would be done. It dealt with raise the income tax rates as a means of shifting the burden on...away from property taxes. Now it does not have a specific sort of answer. Senator Abboud is right in that. It is not a specific answer at this point. We can end with a shifting the property tax burden around. We could end with putting more things on the property tax rolls. We could end with expanding the sales tax base, increasing the sales tax base, or increasing the income tax. We could do any of those things as a shift in the way we finance education. What LB 611 is, though, is a strong commitment by this year's Legislature, number one, that you want to see the relief that you passed in LB 84 continue down the road and be there not just this year and next year but on in through the 1990s and on in to the twenty-first century, and it's a way of getting there. We may get down the road and decide that what we've had with our current equalization and foundation aid is as well as we can do in this state and just want to add more money to it. That's an option that's available to us. But the combination of the legislative intent, the specific thing we need to do to get that information on our income tax forms, and the repeal of foundation and equalization, I don't that's necessarily creating a crisis, as it's been alluded to. I don't think it's necessarily putting our feet to the fire. I think it's just a statement that this Legislature is going to do something different in the area of financing schools in order to make schools better, but also in order to make our property tax burden much less. I think probably one of the biggest mistakes this Legislature can make after making such a positive statement the other day on property tax relief is to take out the long-term solution that's available to you here in LB 611. I would urge you to oppose the Abboud amend...motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Korshoj.