

cities with intent language. They said, well, you promised, you promised that you'd do this. And I try to explain to them that, no, that is intent language. That isn't specific statutory language. And by placing this into the statute in LB 611, I want it to be made clear that the Legislature is not promising to establish this type of local option income tax for the schools. It's merely, in my view, a study at this particular time. And, finally, when we talk about the loss of equalization formula, I think that's significant to certain districts. My district has a substantial amount of income. They're probably do just fine. Ralston and Millard School Districts have no problem with income. Well, that's not the case, though, in a number of districts throughout the state. When you're giving up that equalization formula, you will be hurting certain school districts. Some will do okay, some won't. And the giving up of our option, of our income tax, I think is significant, especially today when we're considering LB 739. It's nice to at least have the option of raising or lowering our income tax, but by giving that power of our tax base to another subdivision, we will be losing that. Mr. President, I'd like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Moore, and then withdraw my bracket motion after that.

PRESIDENT: You have roughly two and a half minutes.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, you know, one thing I want to make perfectly clear to the body is that voting for LB 611 is not a vote to raise income taxes. Now it's a vote to share...with the intent to share some of that income tax base with local school districts, but that's something that we are yet...we're going to come up with between now and next year whether or not you're going to raise that income tax over and above what it presently is, or share a portion of the present income tax rate with school districts. That's a decision yet to be made, so you're not saying, yes, you're raising income taxes. Senator Schmit and the others have problems about, one, shifting of dollars from high-income areas to the low-income areas. As we stated, it's a hope to develop some sort of equalization aid. Now, present equalization aid in state statute deals just with property tax poor districts, and the intent with this bill is to develop an equalization aid that gives money to both...a school district that is both property poor and income poor. And so now you can have a district that's property poor that's tremendously income rich, and then, by allowing them to have some of their income tax base, then you can develop and equalization formula