

above and beyond the troubled mechanism of high school free tuition, that we need an allegiance between these elementary kids and their parents and the taxpayers that support their school district to the high school that they will eventually utilize to complete their education. This bill contains that concept. It says there will be a relationship of affiliation between the Class I and the high school that the kids will eventually go to. The third area of agreement in this bill is it brings to an end the nonresident tuition problems which have plagued this state for years. We have been up and down the judicial ladder time and time again with different formulas that have been attacked on all sides. This is a major area of accomplishment of the bill. There remains an area of disagreement. How do you treat the levying of tax obligations by the Class I school for elementary costs when the district with whom they are affiliated have different costs than the Class I? Frankly, the Class I people say, listen, if we run a cheaper school, we should get the benefit of that. We should have lower taxes that are commensurate with what we're spending rather than getting locked into having higher taxes to support perhaps the broader programming choices of a larger district. Don't tie our fates to theirs. The flip side of that argument is, listen, this whole fight, we were told, was about control, not about taxes. We have been hearing day in and day out from Class I supporters that their chief argument was in favor of self-determination of program, teacher, transportation, maintenance, school buildings, the control of the program and that is assured. If that is assured, shouldn't everyone support education at relatively the same levels? And those two perspectives on this last issue remain open issues. We certainly heard them debated this morning. I would suggest to you this, that the bill in its current shape has much more positive in it than negative. Secondly, that there are negative things in this bill with respect to the Class I opponents to the formulation of the bill as it is, this bill has a period of time of implementation anytime during which it can be subsequently attacked in a collateral piece of legislation by the opponents of this particular single result of the bill. There is more in this bill that is good than that which remains at issue. I submit to you that we need to pass this bill on and we need to make this positive statement today in this session to pass this bill.

PRESIDENT: One minute.