

support the vote to suspend the rules and then I will vote to support the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Scofield and Senator McFarland.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I also rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules as brought to us by Senator Landis. I cut my teeth on Commonwealth. I was appointed to the Legislature for a special session that dealt with two issues, property taxes and Commonwealth. I have had the opportunity to deal with those issues every year that I have been in the Legislature. Property taxes I don't mind, I want that to continue. We need to bring to final resolution the issue of Commonwealth. Last year we had that opportunity. We decided not to do that. The money was there and I stood on the floor as I also championed to get property tax relief passed that let's take the money out of that LB 84. I will give up whatever it costs to do that. We chose not to do that. This year we have the opportunity to take LB 272A and address it up front in a very forthright manner to say this is a priority, and that's really all you are doing here. You are being asked to suspend the rules so that we can vote on this issue and we're asking you to make it a priority, put it up front. Suspend that rule that Senator Hannibal says you have to wait until the forty-fifth day. Senator Hannibal is a very honest, forthright individual, but I can make as many good arguments as he would have good responses to the fact that now we're in a biennium budget, maybe that rule doesn't apply, but that is not the issue here. Don't let a parliamentary procedure, at best, stand in the way of an opportunity to vote this issue up or down. Please don't do that. These people deserve more than that. That is not one place where integrity rules because I think the better part of integrity, in this case, is to vote green on a suspension of our rules. I'm ready to vote yes for this, as I have in every instance. I would ask you to do the same. I have always treated this issue as if I represented the district that Commonwealth sat in because I feel I do. I am a state senator. I happen to come from the district that elected me, but I am a state senator. This is a statewide issue. It is not reflected in one institution, one locality or one community. It is an issue that we have had to deal with for six years. We need to deal with it. We need to bring it to resolution, we need to appropriate the money and we need to suspend the rules first in order for that to happen. I would urge you to do that. It is