

property tax system and want to see us going to other financing mechanisms for schools. I think they see this as an avenue for that, even what we are going to see is some districts that lose dollars, and some taxpayers, it is going to cost them a few more dollars under this system. That is absolutely true. It is going to do that, but I think it says that we are willing in this state to do something positive towards the financing of education, something very positive towards getting away from the reliance on the property tax. This may need some adjustment down the road. We may find in a few years that we have to make some adjustments in 1059 to make it work even more smoothly and to make it work more fairly. But I think right now we have a good proposal in front of us and I would certainly urge everyone to look at it very carefully, ask the questions that you need to ask. We do need to dissect this bill, as Senator Withem has said. It is a very, very important decision that we are making here. We are making a decision here that is going to affect the future of education for all of the kids in this state, and it is a very important decision. We need to have a long discussion about this. We need to look at all the different aspects of the bill, ask the questions that you need to ask. If you don't get the right answers, keep asking the questions because I think the answers are out there for you. With that, I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Chairman Schmit, followed by Senators Dierks, Elmer and Nelson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, and members, I also want to commend Senator Withem, Senator Scott Moore, and the rest of those who have worked long hours on this bill. I understand, perhaps better than most, how difficult is the problem which they have attempted to address, and my concern is that, of course, prior to the time that we make any major adjustments, that we understand the impact of what those adjustments will be and what direction we are going. My concern about this bill is, first of all, I believe that there is a basic faulty premise based upon how do you describe a wealthy district and how you describe a poor district, if you still use those districts, in regard to how much state aid comes out of those districts. I just want to take, for example, my own school district in Butler County, District 56. Fifty-two percent of the valuation in that district is rural or farm valuation; 35 percent of it is urban valuation; and 13 percent of it is automobile, railroad, and other kinds of valuation. Sixty-six of the children in that