

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, it was sincerely my hope that maybe we could debate the concept of the bill before we get into amendments, but, obviously, Senator Lamb, the length of time he has been around here he knows that it's a good...the best defense is a good offense. And I think the first question I need to ask Senator Lamb is a question we often ask colleagues that introduce amendments. Senator Lamb, are your motives pure? Will you support the bill if this is on there?

SENATOR LAMB: My motives are always pure.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, then the second half of the question, will you support the bill if this amendment is on there?

SENATOR LAMB: There's a lot more to that than this bill, than this amendment.

SENATOR MOORE: That's a fair answer, Senator Lamb. And, for that reason, is why probably at this stage, this juncture in the game, at least, I have to simply rise to oppose the amendment. I don't think it's, you know, if Senator Lamb's motives are pure and this would bring his support to the bill, I would be more than happy to do it, because the fact of the matter is that on this particular issue we get...we walk away from the policy issue and we step into the issue of politics and what it is is good politics for us individually to do, and that's what this business is all about, so that's fair. But it's my concern that this amendment, at this juncture in time, would bring...do more harm than good for support of the bill and so I would urge Senator Lamb to work with Senator Withem and myself to possibly work out something on the hold harmless that is fair. I think Senator Landis will give us a dissertation later on what his problem is with the hold harmless into infinity. And instead of Senator Lamb trying to tear this issue down, I urge him to work with us. It's something that can work and something that will at least ease the pain for those 44 odd high school districts and other Class I districts that are relatively losers under this bill. So I would urge the body to defeat Senator Lamb's amendment at this time, but my vote against that is not a no vote into infinity on the hold harmless clause. So, with that, I urge the defeat of the amendment.