

think should be taken lightly. I think if you asked the introducers of this bill, you know, if they would have told you back in December this bill was going to be...they would never have...they never would have believed you if you would have said this bill was going to be this easy. And I guess, in my opinion, there is more than one way to skin a cat on this problem. And if you look at LB 845, Senator Baack's bill that we advanced earlier, that recognized the problem that the two western community colleges areas are indeed poor districts and, for that reason, there is an equalization formula contained in that bill. Well, it's one of those things that the other four community colleges, well, we can...we'll give a little bit of money away if it's new money, to begin with, as long as we get LB 1050 which raises our maximum levy limit. And, I mean, that's a great deal for everybody but the property taxpayer in the state. For that reason, that's the problem I have and that's why I want to just simply bring it to the body's attention and maybe there is some other ways that we can solve this problem. I know Senator Weihing is going to say, well, there's a court case pending, if you don't act on it, you're going to lose it. Well, I guess I'm not...I have, you know, yet to be convinced that we are undoubtedly going to lose that case. Maybe we should wait and see what's going to happen. That's all I have to say. I want to make sure the body knows what's going on. I will give the balance of my opening to Senator Lamb and if Senator Weihing wants to respond, that's fine, and then we can vote on the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President and members, I agree with what Senator Moore is saying here. In the last couple of years the buzz word here has been property tax relief, then we come in with a bill like this which goes in the opposite direction and we have to delve back into the history of it, you know. Well, there was a plea, there was a plea here a few years ago to help out those two western technical community colleges. Let them...let them collect some more money from property tax. So we did that. Now we're leap-frogging along, saying now the next logical step is, well, let everybody else catch up. And, of course, the court case is the excuse. I'm not sure it's a good reason but that's the excuse that's used. And this is a situation that should not be allowed to happen that, as Senator Moore mentioned, there are other ways to handle this problem and this bill does not need not to be and I would just urge people