

to vote against it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please. Senator Nelson. Thank you. Senator Weihing.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, yes, there are other ways to handle this and the Legislature should be looking at it. In reality, this bill is a red flag in that there have been problems in that of the support or how the community colleges are to be funded. If you recall, those areas, those community college areas having a 150,000 people or less were permitted in 1984 to go 2.5 percent higher than the other community college areas. Now, why was that? That was because their property base was not sufficient to have...to create the funds for those particular colleges. They asked for help. That was given by allowing those areas to go higher on property tax, taxation; not that they wanted to. It sounds as though they simply wanted to. The desire was to be able to have the education there and they were willing to pay the extra. They were willing to pay that extra in order to have the education that is necessary for the economic and social benefits of the society to be able to do what is being done in the other areas. Now there is a formula, an equalization formula in a bill that Senator Baack carried and it has passed through. But also, in the meantime, a class action suit has been filed. It is progressing and I would say, in all likelihood, will be ruled in favor so that there will be an asking of the funds, the differential funds of the past year and the years past. What that simply means is those areas will be back to the Legislature and say, we are going to have to pay back and if we have to, it simply becomes disastrous. This is simply a check that allows...it rules out class action. This class action was created by the permission of this very body and what this does is take away the class action or the class differential. Now, it is very...I agree with Senator Moore that we should take a look at how we fund or how the funding of the technical community colleges is at this time and should there not be a change. There very well may be far better ways of the funding, efficiently and with equalization in the tax of everyone. There have been several changes since the community colleges were created back in 1970 or '71, whenever that was, and apparently in this 25-year period we have never really, never really settled with maybe the appropriate...and I urge the body to look at the funding. But, at this moment...