

the School Finance Review Commission, and repealing the intent sections of LB 611 to harmonize our statutes. Most of that is clarification in nature. If you have any questions on any of it, be happy to try to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. You know, as Senator Withem outlined, this is the package of somewhat technical amendments that we will offer to this bill today. Now, obviously, as we embark on our voyage of debating probably the biggest, one of the biggest bills that we ever dealt with in the Legislature, there is going to be a lot of discussion this afternoon. And I think, as there has been a lot of what I'll call strawman, bogus complaints, criticism of this bill, I think there is going to be attempts, through these amendments and others throughout the day, to try and answer them. We're going to have amendments offered up that deal with impact aid. We may have amendments offered up that deal with special education. We may have amendments offered up that deal with some sort of minimum levy, an ongoing hold harmless, things like that that this body can discuss and see what it is that they want to do. We're even going to have one that says, point blank, that the money that school districts receive under this, that is not spent on their allowable budget growth, will go for property tax relief; we're going to say that, if that is a concern to people. I think you will find out, if you listen closely, most of those arguments against the bill, whether they be from the northeast corner, to the state chamber, to some others that have been nervous about this bill, we're going to answer them today. We're going to allow you some opportunities to...some options to how you want to answer them, nonetheless. I encourage people to listen closely and bring yourself and your district into the discussion, because we do have answers for all those questions. And I know in the last two weeks there have been bullets fired at us from all around, and we've been ducking. We have answers to those questions, because there are some reasonable concerns. There are some things, quite frankly, I think Senator Withem and I have been working on this for two years, are obvious to us, but maybe we need to spell it out a little bit clearer. Some of those things are the things that are included in AM3066. So, with that, I urge the adoption of this amendment and urge the body, as a whole, to pay some close attention today, and pay close attention to the arguments that Senator Schmit gives, and others that give, and pay even closer attention in how we answer