

problem. I think, in fact, that it will strengthen the bill because we'll recognize once again ability to pay and that those that have had the highest incomes in the state and the different breaks they have received, that we're not treated with the fairness and equity that we would like to see all people treated with, that we have those incomes of modest means that are now, of course, paying that higher income tax that feel they want to see some relief and so this proposal I think is exactly the heart of the issue, exactly the heart of the concerns some of us have with LB 1059. And if we could, in fact, make this adjustment, it would alleviate a lot of the concerns of not only ourselves but those people we represent, those citizens across the state that have expressed concern about the fairness and equity of LB 1059. This would, in fact, make it clear and send that signal back to the citizens of the state that this bill is, in fact, trying to bring equity and fairness to the tax system, trying to correct flaws in the system that have been in place now for three years, trying to recognize that the average income individual out there needs some attention to their concerns and that's what this amendment attempts to do. So I very much would support the amendment and urge others to support it as well.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: If I'm the last light, I will just close now.

SPEAKER BARRETT: We have one other light, do you want me to proceed?

SENATOR McFARLAND: Okay, I will just pass then.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, would you care to discuss the McFarland amendment?

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I know it's interesting when we compare with other states and the top personal income tax. I certainly...and I have an amendment myself coming down the line, too. But how much of this can we put on LB 1059? But I think this is important. This is something else that I happen to have right quick that I can put my fingers on. When people start comparing our tax rate and our tax rate with other states, as you know, Colorado is a straight 5 percent tax on the federal taxable income, with no exemptions for personal exemption. So look where that is. Iowa's top bracket, over 45,000, is