

heard that message being communicated. Middle income people in this state are outraged and are angry about the tax changes that were made in LB 773. They are still not satisfied and I still get calls and I still get people who meet me on the street and say, you are exactly right, I have...I am a middle income person, I am a middle class person and my taxes have went up and they went up for the past four years and yet the higher income bracket, the corporate executives, are getting a break. And so it's an argument that I will continue to make for as long as I am around and as long as I am here in the state. Frankly, I think that this Legislature should be embarrassed and ashamed of the tax rates that were implemented under 773. That was an egregious mistake, in my view, it was unconscionable to have a tax structure like that and have the wealthy corporate executives get a tax relief package at the time that the majority of the citizens in our state, middle income people, were getting a tax increase. This is a bill or an amendment to try to address that problem as it...as it is going to be perpetuated in 1059. I don't think we need to perpetuate that injustice by just saying that this is a school finance bill, it has nothing to do with taxes. It has everything to do with taxes because it perpetuates an unjust system, an unfair system. Unless we move to correct it, I don't see how anyone can support this bill. For that reason, I offer the amendment. I urge everyone to vote for it and I urge you to consider this amendment as a matter...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...of fairness. Don't consider it as whether the certain Chamber of Commerce is advance...is in back of it or supporting it because they're not. The Chambers are not supporting this kind of thing. Don't consider supporting it because maybe some kind of special organization that's an educational organization is interested. I don't know that they are. I don't have any particular special interest group supporting this amendment. What I do have is a number or numerous people...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...middle income people that feel that the state income tax system was changed unfairly in 1987, they would like to see that injustice corrected. This amendment will address that problem and I urge you to vote for it. Thank you.