

with Senator Baack for a couple of reasons, and I'm a senator who has what's affectionately been known as a number of losing school districts although some people would say their senator is a loser, I do have some school districts who suffer greatly or perceive that they suffer greatly under this. I also have some school districts that fare very well. And if I think...a majority of you are probably doing the same things that I do and that is saying, now, look, I've got some school districts that do very, very well, but I've also got some school districts that really get hit and how do I balance the good for some of those against the harm that comes to some of the other ones? And we do that in a variety of ways. Sometimes we go back and tell them, well, I support the concept. I think you'll hear that over and over today and really what that is is that's a way of saying, I'm not sure, I'm still trying to weigh this thing. Am I going to vote for it or am I going to vote against it, but I'm sure for the concept? We've all said it. Even Senator Moore has said that. We've all heard people talk about that. This amendment is one of those amendments where you actually can go back and this is a way of leveling out the playing field a little bit, and I have a philosophy and I think it's one that is appropriate for this bill, is that school districts shouldn't be harmed in the short term for us changing our funding mechanism for those schools. And the good provision in this also, it isn't perpetual, but we're going to direct them to look at the adequacy and the advisability of having a perpetual hold harmless that will give this study commission something to do immediately. The other provisions that I find attractive in here is particularly with state aid or for special education. We have several smaller school districts who, if they would have one or two individuals move into their schools, and for those of you with smaller schools know that that could break your budget. It could cause you a tremendous amount of problems and with the lid provisions, would almost make it impossible for you to give those services and you're going to be placed in a large problem. This will give you the opportunity to go back to the state board to show the need for those additional expenditures for special education and I think it is something you can go back to your school districts and to the people at home and say, look, we're trying to address the problem, we don't want to harm any school district because of the change in the funding mechanism and I believe that this amendment does so. The minimum levies, I think, Senator Baack and Senator Withem have adequately explained that, and I would urge your adoption of this amendment. Thank you.