

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President and members, I, too, rise to support the amendment and it's been, those of you that have asked some questions, there has been passed out an explanation of the three sections of this amendment and a copy of the amendment itself, that was recently passed out. I think enough has been said about the hold harmless provisions. I, too, support that, but I can only support it if it does indeed go away in three years and between now and then the ongoing commission can look at that. The two probably more important things I want to dwell on a little bit, the first being the concept of a state aid cutoff. I think it's important. You know, it was never my intent, during my work on the commission and as an introducer of this bill, to take someone from a \$2 levy down to a 20 cent levy. That was never my intent. I mean I want to get that \$2 levy down, I think 20 cents might be a little lower than I can defend. Nor was it ever my intent to actually eliminate someone's property tax burden for schools in that district. That was not my intent either. I think this particular amendment simply says that it basically, and this is what it does, it basically says that the lowest levy a school district can have and still get state aid in the form of equalization will be about 60 cents if it's 60 percent of a dollar levy. That is basically what it is and you know a 60 cent levy will be far lower than a \$1.07, \$2.20 or whatever it is. And I think that certainly better molds this bill to the intent that I, myself, had and on where we want to get property tax levies statewide. Secondly, the special ed exemption to the lid is something that I support, but I must say, I support a little bit nervously or anxiously. The fact of the matter is there are some people, when we open up this provision, people in the back here are going to say, holy, shucks, hallelujah, the dam is broke, we're going to take a run at that lid. I guess I'm serving notice to you this is the only one that I'm going to support because I think it's different than the other things and there are going to be some other amendments that are going to be brought to us I think later today that will try and further loosen that lid. And I'm going to stand bitterly opposed to them. I was the chairman of the lid subdivision on the School Finance Review Commission, being somewhat of an admitted tightwad myself I guess, I don't really relish the thought of raising taxes and the only way that I'm going to raise sales and