

formula. And, again, we know that not everybody in the state is going to receive a set reduction in property taxes because the philosophy behind the bill is that we need to be equalizing and not just reducing property taxes for everyone across the board. So I think it's...I think it's a good amendment that Senator Schellpeper is bringing, not because it really changes the bill markedly but because it does state in the bill in clear language that is understandable what the bill will do. So I commend Senator Schellpeper and Dierks for bringing this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, it is a real pleasure to support this amendment of Senator Schellpeper's because I think this amendment is what we have been discussing from the very beginning on this. I have said this before and it's a trite thing to say and I'm sure somebody much wiser, Mark Twain or somebody, said it's like the weather, everybody talks about it and nobody does anything about it. It's fashionable to talk about the property tax and say we have to do something to relieve property tax and then it doesn't really happen in a significant way. When I signed onto this bill I said I would sign onto it but I would reserve the privilege of not voting for it in the end if I didn't feel that it was actually going to have some kind of significant impact on relieving property tax. The phone calls that I get about LB 1059 from what I call voter constituency types, not from organizations, not from Chambers of Commerce, not from city council people or from educators, from board members of school boards, and so on, but from people who vote and who feel that they're the ones who pay the taxes which, of course, we all do. So I am pleased to have this spelled out in the bill that it must have...that it must come down to reducing the property taxes. We have talked...all day yesterday it seemed that we talked about a lot of things except what this bill is all about, two things really, trying to equalize and shift the burdens of...to different incomes, from income tax and sales tax and away from property tax and also quality education. That is what my phone calls...that's the second thing they talk about is quality education. Is this going to ensure quality education? That's what the schools are all about. I have gotten a copy of the Lincoln Public Schools' budget and if any of you would like to see the percentage pies, I will be glad to show you because most of the money, the higher percentage of the money comes from property tax and most of it goes for