

vote for this amendment, but 99 percent of the people in our state probably will not be affected by this change at all, and I think that it would rectify some of the problems that occurred when we enacted 773. And, again, as Senator Hall said, it would enable him and would enable me, too, if this thing passes, to be able to explain to the middle income taxpayer that, yeah, you are getting an increase, but we rectified the problem by not only increasing the upper bracket, but increasing it like it should have been when we passed 773. The wealthy people are going to be contributing their proportionate share to support the state income tax system as well. So that is why it is there. I think it is a logical and fairly straightforward amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, you are privileged to close if you would like.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, I would be glad to. This has been an interesting debate on 1059, and we are getting to the end, and I appreciate the patience that the senators are showing, and I really appreciate and admire, to a great degree, the way Senator Withem and Senator Moore and Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Baack, the supporters of this bill, have conducted themselves all through it. There has been no motion to suspend the rules or anything. They have handled every amendment as it has come up. It has been almost two days now, and they have responded to each amendment, and I appreciate that. I don't think that this amendment will hurt the bill at all. I think it will even help it and it will help our state revenue situation. I think it would be very beneficial for us to adopt this amendment. I looked at the vote on the previous amendment and I can't help commenting about looking at how those votes lined up. My previous amendment, as you may remember, would have increased the upper bracket, while at the same time decreasing slightly the middle income brackets. That got 19 votes. It would have generated the same amount of revenue. This one keeps the middle, the four lower brackets at the same as is proposed by 1059, but would just increase the upper bracket, and would have the advantage of generating additional income or revenue at the same time that it makes the tax rate structure more progressive. The votes on the previous amendment were really quite striking when I went down and looked at them and, for some reason, I often really find the partisanship aspects within this Legislature. I recall a few weeks ago when we were voting on workers' comp, there was a clear division