

SENATOR MORRISSEY PRESIDING

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Withem. I will now go through a list of speakers to see who wants to speak to the Moore amendment. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the...my first reaction was, when I read this amendment, was to be supportive to maintain the concept. I've been getting second thoughts as we have been dealing with this issue today. We're in rather difficult times and maybe some benefits have to be delayed because of that. I suspect the only reason for the lid in the first place, in 829 to extend the lid in that, is to make sure that the exemption of additional property, even though it's fully reimbursed, is not blamed on the Legislature. And I...I'm not convinced at the moment that for a year or so, while I have no disagreement with putting in the mid...those at below the midpoint, upping their funding on the equalization or to improve their educational opportunity. I'm not at all convinced at the moment, at least, unless I hear stronger arguments, that any exemption ought to be made under the circumstances because it's probably going to be interpreted whatever increase in property tax somehow or other was related to the exemption issue rather than the state aid issue of 1059. So I'm just expressing some reluctance and perhaps as I listen to the arguments I will be convinced otherwise. But I rather suspect that we're going to get blamed for increased property taxes even though the additional exemptions are fully reimbursed, plus the fact that the reimbursement probably will not be district by district proportionate to their loss of personal property and I'm not sure of that impact. And I would hope the sponsors would explain, if they can, if there is a relationship between the reimbursement for lost personal property tax on a district by district basis.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Lynch, would you like to speak to the Moore amendment? Senator Abboud. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hall. Would anyone else care to speak to the Moore amendment? Senator Moore, would you like to close?

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Warner...I was trying to understand Senator Warner's question. Maybe if he wants to give another stab at asking Senator Withem or myself that question, we will try and answer it. I guess I didn't track quite clearly enough,