

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President and members, I just really would articulate what Senator Withem said and rise to support Senator Lamb in this effort.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to add my two-cents worth to this amendment. Lexington is going under a rapid growth change at this time, 10 to 20 percent increase in school population this year, and possibly another 5 or 10 percent growth next year, and it seems unfair to not compensate them for this rapid increase by delaying their state aid for a couple of years. So I think it is very important that we allow schools that are taking a rapid growth of this size the ability to receive their state aid when they need it. Also the hold harmless clause is important to the rural school districts because some of those districts are high in property valuation per student, but it gets quite expensive to run a school system that covers a large land mass area. So I would support Senator Lamb's amendment wholeheartedly. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Landis. I don't see Senator Landis. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit is not here. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, anybody can answer this question for me that might know the answer, but I am curious how this affects the formula. I know in the Omaha School District we are, in fact, in this particular case and with this amendment going to continue to pay out of proportion to what we receive from the formula, and we all understand how the formula works, and this could have been a trade-off. It was agreed to when the bill was originally passed that for at least three years, as I understand it, school districts would be held harmless. By extending that hold harmless clause two years, we simply extend the absence of uniformity and, in fact, fairness, and I will probably just simply pass on this because, obviously, there is not organized support against it. When the chairman of the committee indicates he probably would support it, it is obvious there may be something that is worthwhile that'll result from this amendment. However, what we do with this kind of an amendment is again extend the inequities that exist with the distribution of school tax monies at the expense of others. So for all of you that may live in those school districts that