

100 percent valuation that the Department of Revenue did and gave the Department of Education, they were also hit at the same time with all of the big valuation swings and then all of a sudden now as things are going to begin to calm down just a little bit, we'll change the game again just for somewhere around, and it will be less than that, somewhere around \$16 million which if you put that statewide on property tax, I don't know what it would be but it would be somewhere around maybe a three-quarters or a cent to maybe a cent and a half that every person would get. If anyone could explain to me what the real advantage is in lowering the lid I would be willing to listen. I haven't heard one yet. So the Vrtiska amendment accomplishes the main thing of what 613 wants to do and that is extend the lids. Then it will extend it through the time period that we will be making those major policy debate questions on school finance and we'll be at the same time making that tough question on whether or not we're going to have a levy lid and what those lids are going to be and how they will affect the political subdivisions and at that time I suspect if we go ahead with levy lids, we'll probably want to do all the way with...on the spending side on lids simply because there's no reason to have the lids we have now if you're going to have the lids on the revenue side. So it makes absolute good policy to extend the lids till the time period, make all the decisions that have to be made and keep as much stability as possible in a very unstable area of school finance this upcoming year. The Vrtiska amendment makes sense, it does not detract from the main part of the bill and by again I'm going to argue that by doing the way the bill is now we're fooling everybody if we tell them it's property tax relief or has something to do with it, it isn't, it's cosmetic, it's pennies and it's not worth the instability it will cause individual school districts. I think particularly about some of the small rural school districts who have really been strapped and have really been hurt and all of a sudden now we're going to strap them even more and I just don't think it's fair when we're not gaining anything substantial by that policy change. The Vrtiska amendment keeps the intent, the heart of 613 and I would urge the body for its adoption.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Vrtiska, your light is next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well it was just left on, I didn't turn it on.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie.