

drives that are currently out there are also going to do some of the very same things that this and some of the critics of the resolution have pointed out. And that there, there's no certainty, there's no plan with this resolution. And I'll suggest to you and tell you that the petitions that are out there also have no solution and they offer really no relief in terms of practically what's to be done other than something's got to be better than what's currently going on. And I'll tell you that it can be much worse. Those petitions right now have a variety of unintended consequences. They will turn over school finance to the courts. They will also provide tremendous uncertainty in financing and budgeting. But they're also going to cause drastic cuts in services or major increases in taxes. One of the two. And that's, in effect, what we're trying to avoid, those consequences, today by beginning this debate and this discussion. This resolution will not have a solution in it. What this resolution will do is to allow this body to begin to funnel down this wide variety of problems and conclusions and options that you have and begin to funnel them into some very specific things that you can do and options that you have. And I want to tell you that really, the things that the state needs to do and we as the Legislature needs to do, and when you're sitting in committee and listening to these bills, here's what I suggest you do is, one, you keep in mind is property tax as big a problem as the state says and the people tell us that it is and we say that it is. Truly, is it the problem it is? And if you say yes, and I suspect a variety of us will, then what choices are you going to have? The major choice is going to be state control versus local control. Because you as a state policy maker, if you determine that property tax is the problem, and it is such a significant problem that it needs major attention, you're going to have to do something about the mix and the policy of local control versus state control. And then your third question you're going to have to ask to yourself, is the choice worth the price to do it? Because it's very easy to stand up here and say I want property tax relief, let's go do it, people are ready for it, and we'll march out of here clapping and cheering. But if you're unwilling to either raise taxes, cut services, or change local control and take local control away, then you shouldn't answer the first question yes because that's really the policy choice that you're going to have to make, and that's where the petitions come in. The petitions allow no discussion for that. The petitions allow for no consideration of your alternatives for policy choices. So we