

wealth to count against a school district it has to be accessible. The rebate, although I have a lot of problems with the rebate after it's done and I'll express those a little bit later on, but with the rebate, at least that wealth, that income wealth is accessible; it's not through a property tax. What we're doing with this mechanism is we are artificially inflating or deflating the value of people's property based on whether their neighbors have a high income. It doesn't make any sense to do that at all. Now what Senator Robak is attempting to do is answering a very real question and a very real concern, and that is one that, that does, in fact, permeate all of the debate as it relates to income...the property tax situation. And that is that income is not always...property valuation is not always indicative of a person's ability to pay. But there are lots of other better ways to deal with that. We could do a homestead exemption. We could cut the overall reliance on property taxes. We could use a circuit breaker provision. There are other better ways of targeting the relief that Senator Robak is trying to give to those people who need it. Let me tell you an example about this, and I'd appreciate it if you'd just think about this because I know this is a complicated issue. But let's assume, let's assume, I'm going to give you an example, that Senator Brown and Senator Klein live in identical houses in neighboring school districts. That the cost per students in their neighboring school districts are exactly the same. Their students are receiving the same type of education. That the total valuation of those two school districts is exactly the same, the budget is exactly the same, and that, as I said, they live in identical houses. But Senator Klein happens to have richer neighbors than Senator Brown has. Senator Klein's neighbors happen to make thirty thousand dollars a year on the average and Senator Brown's only make twenty thousand dollars a year. Senator Klein, under LB 349, would pay higher property taxes because his neighbors have a higher income. That's what the impact of LB 349 would do, it would, it would penalize those school districts that happen to have wealthier individuals. It would give property tax relief to individuals who do not necessarily need it. If you want to give, if you want to address the problems of property valuation not being an indicative of a person's ability to pay, you can do that. But you can do that under other mechanisms. This does not target the property tax relief to those areas. Income is already existing in the formula. It was placed there through the rebate. This body made that decision when it passed LB 1059.