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as state senators in doing what's best for kids in Nebraska. And, as we have said, that is always of paramount concern, certainly to all of us here, and certainly the Education Committee. That's why we have looked at this issue, it is a difficult issue. It is very difficult to make and recommend and stick your neck way out and, as I said, it would be great to be from a school district that is either all nonequalized or equalized, I suppose, because there wouldn't be that risk. But in all... a number of issues this session people are asking us to look at the issues, study the issues, understand the issues, and they expect us to then take those risks. I've had people ask, how could you bring this and support this from your district? I said, because I have always said, since the time I've served on the Board of Education in Hastings, I believe in trying to bring equity into the formula.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: If you support Senator Wickersham's amendment, you are taking \$28 million out of the equalization formula that would go there without his amendment. Therefore, I oppose the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Hartnett, followed by Senators Withem, Bernard-Stevens, Schrock, Wickersham, Wehrbein, Brown, Robak, and Stuhr.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President and members of the body, I was going to ask Senator Wickersham or Senator Bohlke a question. And I think Senator Bohlke has answered it because actually, rather than '96-97, rather than being at 83 point whatever million dollars, we're at 116-point million dollars. And I guess I was here when we passed 1059 and when, you know, when there was the petition drive and we went out and so forth. And I think the message that I... and I spoke at different places about 1059. And I think the message that people were interested in is in the equalization area, equalization of taxes across the state, whether it's my district or other districts. And that's what I think we're doing with... as I begin to understand the 83-point so many million dollars, that's what we're really doing. We're putting more of the income so that we can balance between the... I hate to use the word Westsides of the world and some other place. So, I guess, that, I think, is the message that I heard from people as we talked about it was equalization.