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the rebate and you do what Senator Wickersham is going to do, it will take dollars away from equalization. What the school districts have been saying is that if our goal is 45 percent funding on equalization, let's meet the goal. The bill as we now have it goes a long way in helping to add dollars to the equalization districts. And I'll point out personally, though I don't get a lot of people responding one way or another to it, I'd like to remind the body something that school superintendents do not wish to admit because it defeats the purpose, I think, of when they argue about why they're having to cut things or not, it's easier to blame the state. But if you are an equalized district, that means you're one the need.er school districts. It would seem to me, personally, that if I were superintendent of a school, I would rather my report card on the financial status of my district come back that my needs were not as great as my resources, and therefore I was not an equalized district. That, to me, would be marvelous. I would hate to be a school district that knows that their needs are...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...greater than their resources. There is no way they can continue on their own, and so they need, in essence, a welfare payment from the state for them to survive. The goal is, in essence, not to have equalization. But we get this equalization dollars mixed up as if it was the original state aid where we're talking extra money out there. The other thing I'd like to comment on is be sure and make the connection, if you get a chance to think about it, when and if we make a change on the property tax side and we do cap it, if that is happening there is even more reason for us to put dollars into that equalization formula. If we cap property taxes and lessen the school districts ability to tap that source, it is imperative that we get the dollars into equalization.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: There are not extra dollars where we're putting into, but these types of amendments that the Chair came up with is reasonable, and I would urge you not to vote for the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator