

February 15, 1996 LB 349, 10:0

SENATOR CROSBY: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Senator Withem. Record...go ahead and record, Clerk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 11 nays, Madam President, on the motion to cease debate.

SENATOR CROSBY: Debate does not cease. Continuing debate on the Wickersham amendment, Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Senator Crosby and members of the Legislature, I turn my time over to Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Beutler wanted to talk about philosophy, and I'll be more than happy to talk about philosophy in the context of this bill and the context of what I understand the original philosophy of 1059 to have been. And you can all read the statutes, if you want, the relevant portion stating legislative intent for 1059, and I think Senator Withem made some reference to it, is 79-3802. And he picked out parts of it that he thought were relevant, you can pick out other parts. But 1059 really had dual purposes, in my understanding. One, it did have equalization or an attempted equalization as a goal. I've said before on the floor that I support that objective, I will support that objective when it's consistent with the other objective of 1059, and we've also had discussion of that other objective. And the other objective was to give school districts access to another resource, other than simply the property tax. The other resource that was chosen was income and the way to access income as a wealth base was the income tax rebate. When we discussed LB 359 or 349, I'm sorry Senator Robak, that was explicitly a part of the discussion and I think there was an explicit acknowledgement that that's what happened with LB 1059. So, philosophically Senator Beutler now seems to be saying that we should discard that other objective of 1059 to allow school districts access to another wealth base income, or at least very substantially restrict it and declare that we only really have in effect one, one objective that will survive out of 1059, and that is equalization. Now Senator Bromm passed around some interesting numbers that described real