

district? Yes, I assume it does because it is part of a tier, it's part of all the other school districts, and when we are talking about equalization dollars, it does have an impact, and it has an impact on every senator's district. So my philosophy is let's look at this next year, let's follow the advice that the Education Committee took in killing this particular proposal, and end the debate and maybe focus in on some of the other more important issue that I see that are going to be offered. I am opposed to this amendment. I will be voting against the amendment, and I urge others to do likewise. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate now cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The question is, shall debate now cease? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is ceased. Senator Schimek, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would just like to refresh your memory on some of the debate here this afternoon, and I would like... I guess the most important thing I can tell you about this amendment is that if philosophically you agreed with moving the transportation costs out of the tier and doing those separately, then you should support this amendment. This, the whole... the whole purpose of this amendment is to bring fairness into the system for those school districts that have high education, special education costs, and it will simply address the formula as it is now. One of the things that you've heard discussed here today is the 742 process, and that's a very important process, and I think next year that we will be locking at special education in a big way and, in fact, they have to come back to us with recommendations and report, but there is an unfairness in the system now, and I think it needs to be addressed. Also, I think that Senator Hillman brought up something that not most of us were fully aware of and that is the fact that we made a policy decision