

percentage with the cap, but the fact of the matter is that that was a resource for those local school districts and the bill, as it stands now, diminishes that local resource, which will mean higher property taxes for some districts. I don't think that's appropriate. I didn't think it was appropriate to do what we did with the income tax rebate even though that...I offered the amendment that was ultimately successful and capped it at 102 million dollars. That was affirmatively a resource for local school districts. Now we're using it as a resource for a state program. I do not think that's appropriate. The effect of the amendment, I believe, and I do not have a printout for those who are interested in printouts but we do have a calculation that I think is reasonably accurate, we believe, if you're specifically interested in the issue of how it affects equalization as opposed to nonequalization schools, we believe that the amendment would shift or spend an additional 1.8, roughly 1.8, maybe 1.9 million dollars on nonequalization schools. Some people have made a big deal out of whether or not the income tax rebate program was destroying equalization. I never did think that was the case. I don't think this amendment destroys equalization either. If you run the numbers, it's less than one-half of one percent, less than one-half of one percent of total state aid. Now, if you want to argue that less than one-half of one percent destroys equalization you can try, but for my analysis that simply doesn't make it. The more compelling argument for me is that we should not use a school's local resources to pay for a state program and I would ask your support for the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Abboud to speak to the Wickersham amendment. While we're waiting for Senator Abboud to reach the microphone, Senator Fisher announces that the following guest is visiting the Legislature today: Aimee Mallory is here from Lincoln. Aimee is the daughter of Linda and Ron Jensen and Linda is Senator Fisher's administrative assistant. Amy's sitting under the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please, Aimee. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam President, members, I'm going to use the fairness argument here again, since that apparently...appears to be very successful in getting amendments and bills passed this session, the issue of how much school districts are spending on each one of those students. And in one of your earlier handouts