

changed except probably the realization of the amount of money that we're talking about. And so, when Senator Wickersham says it's only one-half of one percent, oftentimes if we do not want to talk about dollar amounts because they seem large we can revert to percentages that seem rather small and I think, as he said, you know, insignificant. I would say 17 million dollars is a significant amount of money. I think it's 16,900,000 or something like that, 17 million. That's what it would cost the equalization formula to move it back out and essentially what Senator Wickersham's amendment does. I think that as we began the argument and the debate on 1050, those of us who have supported it said we support it because we need to do all we can to improve the equity for students in the state of Nebraska. LB 1050 now does that for 92 percent of the students. If we go back to previous to adopting LB 1050 as amended on General File, what we're doing is going back on the amount of money that will be there in that equalization formula. So it's a very negative for those schools that, at a time as we look at LB 299 and LB 1114 and we'll continue to have that debate, the impact on those schools that are the very neediest, we need to do and we've said we need to get as much money into the equalization formula as possible. This goes the direct opposite direction of that and so I do stand very much opposed to the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'll waive.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Bromm, Maurstad, Janssen, Abboud, Robinson, and Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I would rise in opposition to the Wickersham amendment and to remind the body, I know when we deal with multiple subjects and multiple bills, various stages of debate, particularly LB 1050 was debated on General File, then it was debated for awhile on Select File, we're just now getting back to it, people sometimes lose the perspective on where we started and where we end up, so I would like to walk you through where at least Senator Bernard-Stevens and I and 15 other senators started out on this question of option hold harmless. There are 17 members of the body that signed a bill, LB 1145, that would have abolished it.