

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ..on this issue. If you are going to put a cap on the levy and a tight spending lid on schools, you just have to visualize, if you can, that schools will get state aid if their needs are greater than their ability to meet the basic needs. Those are the poorer school districts. They get state aid. When you reduce the amount of revenue that they can collect by the caps and spending caps, their needs stay the same if not go up on basically because of inflation or whatever the cause of education inflation is, but the resources are down so more school districts will get into equalization that have not been there before. If we don't continue to put more dollars there, even the poorer school districts will continue to get less because there are more schools dividing the same pot. If you're going to have the original philosophy of equalizing the opportunity for our...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ..children, you must keep the dollar amount continuing to go into equalization and that's why I oppose the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Beutler. Question's been called. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 9 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate ceases (sic). The Chair recognizes Senator Bohlke. Debate does not cease, excuse me, and Senator Bohlke next.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, back to the original discussion of this on the floor and, as I said, Senator Wickersham and I have had this discussion and I think there, you know, there was a clear understanding and I believe that the transcript shows that and it shows that Senator Wickersham believed that the option payments were to be distributed out of the income tax rebate fund. And so, Senator Wickersham, I guess I would ask you is that not true?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wickersham.