

want to be in the position where I have been the one to have damaged the school system. I don't want to take that chance. I'll take \$50 million worth of chance, I'll take \$90 million worth of chance, I'll bet on that kind of restructuring, I'll bet on that alternative tax revenues, but I will not bet on 200 or \$250 million of makeup revenues coming from someplace or bet on us revoking that cap in the event that they do not occur. And I don't think that any of us in here should do that. I mean if we are prepared to develop the thought as far as we apparently are, why are we not prepared to develop the thought one step further? Because I believe that when you get to the bottom line that almost all of us in here know we have to raise a good part of those revenues that represent the 30 percent reduction in school revenues. I mean we know we got to do that. And there could be no clearer message to the people of the state that this needs to be done than to say so right here as part of the overall proposition. People of the state are not fools, they know there has to be some kind of revenue to make up for this. They don't want to hurt the school system. And there shouldn't be any...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...doubt in anybody's mind, a 30 percent reduction would be a big hurt. And so they're going to be supportive of reasonable efforts. They're going to understand reasonable efforts. And we should infuse this process with a little realism of our own. And I think in doing that we will gain credibility with the people. And we do that by saying out right, if this is what you want, and this is what you want apparently, then in order to protect the most important of all institutions, the schools or the children, this is what needs to be done. And that's all this amendment does is to say we are not in any sense going to abandon the schools, that if somebody is going to abandon the schools it will be Ed Jaksha or somebody else with one of their petition drives.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Warner, on the Beutler amendment.