

least for a year, and have people start thinking about what can we really do. I thought about asking Senator Bohlke about some things that may be done in education as innovations that could be looked at. I won't put her on the spot at this point. But I think we have to raise everyone's interest in this issue to the point that not only school people, but taxpayers across the state are going to have to focus more. I think the Revenue Committee, in its studies statewide, have done a lot to raise the level across the state of taxpayers awareness of what really are the issues, what really is important and what is not important. But I don't believe the dialogue is done yet. And so I believe at this point moving ahead with 1114, as the proposed amendments, is a risk that we're going to have to take. One of the risks we take in here, I think the good Legislature should be five or ten years ahead of a given state or even a country is going, and that's one of the risks we're taking. None of us really knows where we're headed, but we do know that change is occurring rapidly and we're going to adapt to that change. And actually doing nothing is...either is probably falling behind and cannot continue at the status quo. And I think this amendment, if passed, would take that pressure off to the degree that certainly there's money. I won't argue that if pinned down probably two years from now we could well be doing this exact thing. Might even be more money, Senator Beutler. But I don't believe we ought to put it in at this point.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Let's see how innovative all the subdivisions as well as ourselves can be. A hundred and fifty million, as I see it, is a cent and a half sales and income...in sales tax, it's half the amount that would be raised by a food tax. There is other service taxes. I've not yet seen an indication that the body or the state taxpayers are ready to raise sales tax. And then I bring in the other issues that we have of fighting crime, increasing costs of Medicaid, which I will not let that rest because that's going to be an increasing responsibility of the state. So I oppose your amendment, Senator Beutler, that's the bottom line for me at this point.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Beutler, there's no question here,