

hope people have taken a look at that, that might be another way to address this. But I want to thank Senator Beutler for his comments.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, I want to give you my opinion from the Revenue Committee, and it's obviously just my opinion and not a consensus of the group. There's no doubt that the schools are the most important factor of property tax, for a couple of reasons. One is they certainly are the largest users, but they also have the most emotional appeal. It's our kindergarteners, it's our seniors, it's our future, all of those things that you and I know to be true. The ones that are the most vulnerable in here, that could be left out, are the counties and the cities because they do mostly administrative things. They carry out the function of our county records, they carry out our law enforcement, they do motor vehicles, they do those sorts of things. From my opinion the reason that the committee did is that you want to take care of those counties and cities in your terms, not mine, but address those problems is, one, that it's easier; but, two, those are also the most likely ones to be left out. There's no doubt that...and it isn't a gamble, that there will be tremendous pressure because of the importance of the schools. When this all occurs you do the restructuring first, then you look for the replacement revenues, if necessary. Schools will come first in line because they're going to be the most important. They won't be the ones left at the gate. Who would be left at the gate will be the cities and the counties. And from my point of view that's the reason that we did this up front. Second point is that when we go to the Education Committee it's real hard to sit in the Revenue Committee and do education type, because of our committee structure, begin to do 1059 types of things in a vacuum, because schools, the reason 1059 sits over in the Education Committee and not in the Revenue Committee is that there is actual impact upon instructions and there's a lot of other factors that, quite frankly, it's very difficult to do when you're looking at property tax relief. The third factor for me is the Maurstad amendment, speeches by many, many people, the schools are the problem, the schools are the problem, the schools are the problem, they spend more. And that cry, if