

quality. So if this package included some sort of a minimum levy then...before...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ..you could receive equalization, then I might be feeling totally different about it. But I still come back to the thing that, you know, I don't believe that the nonequalization schools are resistant to sharing their affluence, if that is what you choose to...how you choose to define them, so that all children can have quality education. I think they are resistant to the idea of sharing that just so that other places can keep down their property tax at the expense of quality education. And so I will probably, as much as it hurts me to do this because of some agreements that I've made on this bill, support the Abboud amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I want to speak only to the discussion about the promise, the one that we've heard, changing the rebate system breaks the promise. Well, I would argue that there were a number of promises and a very big promise that went with 1059. Depending on who you talk to and the way in which they viewed what they were voting on, you will hear people who say, the income rebate was a part of a promise that meant property tax relief to some districts. That was a part of the promise they voted on. But, honestly, the bigger promise was about equity. The bigger promise was saying, we need to look at school districts that are taxing themselves at a high level because of low resources and still not able to provide quality. The bigger promise was about equity and that is, I believe, what we're dealing with today--a promise within a bigger promise, but equity is still what we need to think about. In fact, I would agree with Senator Abboud that losing money can be devastating and can be harmful because we know money drives the policy and drives the quality. On the other hand, I would argue there are students out there who are not receiving the quality, who are being hurt currently because the formula is beginning to reward disequalization, inequity instead of equity. With that, Madam President, I would like to yield the remainder of my time to Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I just