

before you is the adoption of the Withem amendment to LB 1050. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Withem and Jones amendment to the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any further discussion on the advancement of LB 1050? Senator Bohlke, to close.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, I really do congratulate all the members here as they've done a very good job, I think of doing their continuing education credits on school finance. I think that people have worked very hard to understand the issues and certainly have, I hope, a better working knowledge of the school finance formula. I do think that in closing I would like to say that with LB 1050 I believe that we preserve our commitment to recognize income in the formula by setting that rebate level at 102 million, \$19 million more than as it was introduced on General File, we preserve our commitment to option payments, and we increase our commitment to equity in the formula. As in recent days as we have discussed the impact of LB 299 and LB 1114 on our schools, I believe the equity issue is of great importance, greater importance and urgency. As I opened on 1050, I asked us to focus on philosophy, rather than printouts, and there were moments of discussion on philosophy rather than on printouts. But I do think that we need to remind ourselves that when we look at those printouts that those really are only a snapshot. It's only an indication of what that figure would be in one particular year. And that can change from school district to school district, and as some people say that my county is going to lose this much or my school district is going to lose this much, no one really knows the exact amount. It is an indication, but as the number of option students, say, may change within a school district, that number can change, and they would...would read out differently. But the philosophy of equity is ongoing. One final fact is that with 1050 we provide increased equity to 92 percent of the children. I know I've said that before, and you can go down the column of the printout and go right, which a number of us have done, and we've had that discussion, and you can look at your district, but I believe in the final analysis, we have to remember that we represent districts in fact, but we're also state senators, and as we