

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam President and members, I started out this dialogue a little bit to get a little clearer of what I thought was an understanding of what Senator Brown was trying to accomplish, but the longer I sit here, I guess the more resistance I have to the amendment in that I think we are doing quite a few things to local political subdivisions in looking at controlling the property tax issue, but to me, one of the...one of the intents of the whole package is to say to local government, figure out what works best in your particular area in the idea that you are bringing down costs by either restructuring or changing programs, whatever that might be on any level. And I think to be able to put this kind of thing, even though it is intent language, it still says, but there is a way we want you to do it, and these are, again, more limitations, you can call them guidelines or intent, but to include that in the package I don't think, I guess in my opinion, motivates local school boards and political subdivisions to do the kinds of things that we would like to see them do. I think we need to give them a certain amount of credit for knowing what it is we are trying to get to, that they recognize what their purpose is, and that we should encourage them to attain, you know, highest...finest education for kids, and what have you, and I think we have done that in many areas. I don't think this will motivate people to "do the right thing" as we see it. I think we'd be much better off, there are other ways perhaps to say it, but is to be able to give them credit for the fact that they will do what's best for kids. That's why they are in business. That's what they've always been doing, and then looking at the individual situations, not knowing what extracurricular activities might be defined in one, how important they are in one school system versus another. Student transportation makes a big difference in a lot of different areas as far as that children having access to academic programs, and school buildings and ground maintenance, that covers, to me, a huge gamut, and those, also, all affect academic programs. And for us to say that no matter what, that should be a first consideration in reductions doesn't take, I don't think, into concern what actually is affecting that school district. And for that reason, I will oppose the Brown amendment.