

the kind of study that I would support and, therefore, I oppose this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL PRESIDING

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Before we proceed to the next speaker, Senator Maurstad would like to announce some guests. There are, in the north balcony, 14 fourth graders from St. Joseph's School in Beatrice, with their teacher. Would you please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Senator Kristensen, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. A number of things have already been said. I don't want to be repetitive. I, too, rise to object to the amendment and will not vote for it, but my reasons are this. One is that the issues of school consolidation are not new. That has been the focus of this state's debate for a number of years. In fact, this Legislature has acted, in the eighties, in that area, and that continues to be a source of constant examination, not only at the state level, but among other schools. What is not old and what is new is the idea for the first time serious consideration of consolidation of county functions and counties, themselves. That's the reason that I believe the Revenue Committee put this part in limited only to counties is because that 1085 was designed to bring in the new areas that we thought needed to be examined. That's the reason that there is part of the constitutional amendment to deal with townships and counties. That's the reason that 1085 is opening up some of these options, and changing the way that we deal with certain county offices. Does that mean that Senator Beutler's amendment is off base? No. It is just that, from our point of view in the Revenue Committee, was that you needed to make sure that we put the emphasis on what the counties were going to do. The other thing, Senator Beutler, that we talked about, and I think plays into what you're doing is on LB 1114, I know that there is a proposed amendment where we would have the option for a countywide meeting, or countywide committee of all property tax users to begin to examine how all of us are going to live within these levy limits. That was important to me because so often when someone comes in to complain about their property tax, or that we begin to discuss the issue of property tax, it is very easy to get sidelined and point fingers and say, it's the city's fault, it's the state's fault, it's the school