

balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized please. And Senator Wehrbein announces that there are ten students from Conestoga High School in Murray and their teacher. They are also in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Robak, your light is next.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I wasn't really going to speak on this bill, although I agree with Senator Abboud and I said I would support his amendment. I...from day one I always wondered why we were doing LB 1050, and I believe I said that when I opened on my own priority bill, LB 349, which included income as a determinant of wealth rather than relying solely on property as a determinant of wealth for a school aid formula, financing school aid. I believe that's one thing we're going to have to look at down the line and I think that we are putting the cart before the horse here. We have these petition drives, and not only the petition drives, but we have our own legislation here. I just would like to reiterate that, that I believe I did say that we were doing this a little bit premature and I think we should also look at the concept of LB 349. I hope all the senators that spoke today will remember that when we do include income as a determining factor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Abboud. Senator Bohlke. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, I haven't been able to hear all of the comments made, but certainly this is just a different phase-in than the amendment that Senator Abboud had before. And this is where we come to the philosophical debate of in the next years, what do we think is important and to...and which schools do we think it's important to help. One thing that we haven't talked about in this phase-in that I think is important is that not only now would you, if you phase in the whole bill, you're talking about a bill that includes impact aid, you're talking about a bill that includes incentives for small schools wishing to merge. There are a number of other things in this bill that we have not concentrated on and I think it's important that, as we begin to debate that, that we take that into consideration. And so I, I believe that Senator Abboud and I just have a very philosophical disagreement. And as I've stated again that this is about