

this moment, I...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...I do have to oppose the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Bromm, just...I'm not going to ask a question, but to pick up on some of the comments that you...that you have just stated, I think you need to go to the next step, and that is even if we did not attach Senator Beutler's amendment for the half cent sales tax, or tax on services, or whatever it be, even if we didn't attach it to this bill, Senator Bromm, and we just had it on its own, and we passed the bill saying this is what we're going to do, raise these...shift taxes over to this area in order to help relieve the burden of the loss of services to schools and other political subdivisions, the bill would still be vetoed. I mean, that's the point, the bill would still be vetoed, and that's the point that is why I'm not supporting this bill, I'm not supporting 299. Because if you look at our political leadership on both sides of...both political parties, it's not a shot at any one particular party at all, is that their position is, for the most part, we don't want tax shifts. And that will be the same if you're in the elections this year, and that will be the same if you're in the elections two years from now. And I disagree with Senator Warner on the state chamber. I don't think...I don't read their view his way at all. I take them at what they say. I think their intent is consistent with what they have done over the last few years. And their consistent viewpoint over the last few years has been, for the tax base to grow, we need to have more jobs and employment, we need to do that through a combination of tax breaks. We also need to do it through a combination of lowering taxes to entice businesses to come. And I think their viewpoint will be the same two years from now, as it is now, and that is if you raise taxes, when you compare our tax rate to those of the other states it will hurt businesses, businesses may leave, they'll go to other states, and consequently we'll be economically worse off. And they'll still be against the tax increase, period. But then I had some