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we may imagine them to be right now. In the future, we couldn't do what 149 does without this amendment. We can't add or subtract. Senator Kristensen focused mostly on the subtracting part, but we can't add either. What are the chances that we're actually going to change the certification amount once it's been put in place? I think very slim. I think it would take very unusual and very bad economic times to subtract, and pretty unusual circumstances to add since we've added so substantially to our state aid figure and it is such an enormous part of our budget now. We've almost...well, we have doubled it in the last eight years. But do we need that opportunity? I believe we do. The reason I...the reason I think it's slim that we would change it is that I think most of us were elected because we care about education and we care about kids and we care about their future, but we were also elected to use our good judgment to do what's right for the state budget, to do what's right for kids, to use our good judgment in responding to whatever the circumstances are. And I believe the Kristensen amendment just gives us the opportunity to use our good judgment, as we were elected to do. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Brown. For discussion on the Wickersham amendment to the Kristensen amendment, Senator Wehrbein.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Yes, Mr. President, members, I guess I was lucky I heard about this yesterday at five o'clock, so I've had all night to think about it. If I got it this morning, I'd really be in a quandary. I'm still in a quandary, but I believe I'm leaning toward supporting Senator Wickersham and then Senator Kristensen's amendment. To give a little history, you know, a hundred and some years ago when the constitution was drafted, it says the education is one of the primary goals of this state, one of the primary responsibilities. And, historically, it's been just property taxes, property taxes, property taxes, property taxes. And I guess I'm going to give a little philosophy. It may not be all correct, but we've had property taxes, we have sales tax, we have income tax. Historically, it was only property taxes, and I guess a lot of that was because of the stability of support of government; used to be state government as well as local government. And there is stability in property taxes and, even though people hate