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point. I understand why it's being done, but I don't think it's a fair process. And I would urge you very strongly to think through that and think of your responsibility to constituents for which you carried other legislation which was meaningful to you which is not in the process at this point and let your conscience truly guide you in regard to this vote. And I think you definitely should vote against this amendment.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Byars. Further debate, Senator Beutler.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I really think we should strive to end on a positive note because I think, for me at least, I think there is something positive that can be done. And what I would like to throw out, I've thrown out to some individuals here already, is one of two propositions. Given the amount that is needed to take care of Senator Baker's and Senator Kremer's school districts that are already in the process, what about if we put \$500,000, transfer it from the Hardship Fund to the unification fund, \$500,000. That's the amount Senator Bohlke indicated is about what's necessary to take care of the schools in process. Then with the remainder of the funds we do one of two things. We can leave the other \$1.5 million in the Hardship Fund, just leave it there and deal with it next year, or we can transfer that \$1.5 million to the General Fund in a sort of compromise with Senator Brashear. Now, having said those two things, Senator Brashear, Senator Bohlke, can you tell me quickly, I'll yield time to both of you, can you tell me quickly whether either one of those solutions is agreeable to you. I'll just start with you, Senator Brashear.

**SENATOR BRASHEAR:** Very quickly, Senator Beutler, the concept of meeting our existing obligations for a half million dollars and transferring the balance to the General Fund is acceptable. The idea of meeting our obligations but leaving the remainder in the Hardship Fund is unacceptable.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Senator Bohlke.

**SENATOR BOHLKE:** Senator Beutler, transferring the \$500,000 to the incentive bill is acceptable. Returning the \$2 million to