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school district and say, we're going to change the boundaries here and there until they have about an equal amount of wealth. That's one way we could have approached it, which obviously would have been a dramatic departure from the honor that we've given to school district boundaries in this state, regardless of how haphazardly they may have first come about a century ago. So instead of doing that, we did like most states do. We started to turn to state support of the schools, and in particular state support of those schools that had lower valuations, meaning a smaller amount of property to tax to support the kids, so that kids in low property districts would be supported to a greater degree by state funds than other kids, hence the equalization formula, hence we've gotten to where we've gotten.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So the point is, we can't go back to that old way. And I'm not suggesting that Senator Brashear wants to take us all the way back there. But that's not a good direction to be heading in. We need...we do need to head to greater fairness. The formula takes us towards greater fairness. And I'm not sure that the direction that Senator Brashear suggests is going to be a faster way to get to fairness than working with the formula as the Education Committee continues to do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Burling, Schrock, Landis, and Beutler.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Just a couple of comments, I cannot support this amendment, AM1445. Part of it is I don't have current figures but a few years ago I looked up Omaha and Lincoln, I can't remember the break, but one of them has 20 percent...28 percent of their budget was from sales tax. The other one was 40 percent of its budget was from sales tax. So in my simple mind, there is some property tax relief already in some of the cities. That doesn't take into account the rest of the towns now that have come on line using at least 1 percent, and some of them 1.5 percent. So I cannot