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LB 379

SENATOR REDFIELD: ...I run out of money, and that controls the tax burden. It's proportionate. But income tax takes into effect nothing as regards to your obligations on tuition bills for college, taking care of a disabled child. Have a letter from a woman who said, you know, I need the right to kill my child when I'm gone, because I can't lay up enough money to take care of her when I'm gone because taxes take all the extra money I have. When I save it, you tax it. I can't live to take care of my elderly parents. I can't take care of myself when I'm elderly. That's the burdens that people face. And you say, well, that's disposable income. No, that's just trying to be responsible. I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's fair to people who are trying to make ends meet and to take care of their own needs so they don't become a burden to the state. I'm not going to support LB 379. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I didn't want to argue the basic philosophies of an income versus other taxes, but I did want to encourage you to keep the bill alive because, for a short-term problem, it's a mechanism that has so much flexibility. If you go all the way back to the '96 tax, it's \$92 million in revenue, but you don't have to go all the way back. You can look and see what you're doing with the other bills. If you need \$10 million, you can scale it to \$10 million. If you need \$20 million, you can scale it to \$20 million. It is very easy to scale to whatever it is that we might need should you not choose to have the income tax as a major component, but rather to have it as a filler of some sort. You've heard the basic philosophic arguments, but consider the fact that in the short term it's a very flexible tool that it might be well to have in hand. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, just some more comments, really. The other day, I guess, Senator Wehrbein was talking that, you know, the cuts are going to have to be at the university or they are going to have to be cut K-12. So it means property taxes. If we're going to cut aid to K-12