

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to address the objections raised by the two people who, I thought, spoke intelligently and eloquently against the proposal. Senator Hoagland said, and you remember how he started out, he said this is a K-12 reorganization bill and Senator DeCamp is trying to mess it up with stuff to do with taxes and financing the schools. In all the debate that has occurred on this floor on this bill, it has been portrayed to us as a tax equity, as a tax bill. This is the first time somebody has stood up and said the real purpose is a K-12 reorganization, which I guess is what the opponents have been claiming all along. But anyway, that aside, he is right. He is right. It is a K-12 reorganization bill, and that is the part I've been fighting, a lot of us have. The tax equity is what we'd like to get. That is what is potentially here. That is what is here, a true tax equity. Why don't you sit and do it on a separate bill, or come back next year, they say. The answer is, it won't get done. You seize the opportunity when it is sitting there. We are on the brink, we are really with this bill on the brink of having a possibility of snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, of really getting the one thing that a whole bunch of us would like in here, a tax equity bill, a refinancing of the school system. That is what is possible right now. Is it going to be possible running a separate bill? Not on your life. What would it do? It would force us to do something pretty immediate which gets me to Senator Warner's argument. Senator Warner says we should not have an unfunded liability. And I'll tell you this about Senator Warner's argument, he is full of complete accuracy. He's right. We shouldn't, and we won't, and we don't have to. Remember, we've repeatedly spent days on this floor almost doing two-thirds of this whole thing with one penny. Let's go ahead and do it. Senator Warner's got an amendment, he can put it on the bill, put the funding mechanism right in there. You know what? It will pass, it really will, we are ready. But it's a funny deal about this body. You've got to seize it when it is there or she's gone. I think it might be there just for this one little shining moment. We might be able to turn this bill into what we've all claimed we are working for with different bills, and different programs, and different refinancing systems. We are right on the verge of being able to seize it, a refinancing system for education. So I'm opposed to unfunded liabilities. I think maybe I have as good a record as anybody. If I