

ask you little bit about your thoughts and that is how we address community colleges. I've heard that there's some escape routes, there's some ways that you can reduce your levy by voters, in that the voters can choose to increase the levy. And in a regional concept, which you're looking at 16 or 25 counties, I think realistically you would agree that there is no way you're going to get that many counties to increase the levy. If you're looking at consolidation for another way to address reduced costs, I will give an example of Western...who has done some restructuring, who has moved a campus, who has arranged its entire ed on two-plus-two programs, who has entered into distance learning, and has done those kind of things, but they can't really offer any kind of consolidation where perhaps you could consolidate with another community college. And I think there's some difficulties in any kind of consolidation or looking at any restructuring when we look at higher ed. So I have some real concerns when it comes to community colleges and how they can address the issue of the levy and would like to know what the thoughts was of the Revenue Committee and what you think the alternatives are for community colleges.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hillman, there's been a variety of discussions on community colleges and they range from, some of the things that have been talked about in the past, I would agree that in the case of community colleges, the way they're structured, while there would be authority for a higher levy by vote would be there, I would not think that's probably a likely thing to occur. What there... Obviously, whether or not the old argument, whether state government ought to take over all of secondary education costs for community colleges as well as other is there, or there would be a smaller...a greater percentage that would be state supported, that argument is there. There is one other concept that Senator Wickersham has looked at that we've discussed. I think it would be a matter of an interim study proposition. And I should defer to Senator Wickersham to briefly describe what the concept is. A recent court case, I think, opened up another alternative, it would be a major way to address the lack or uniformity between the various community college districts and their ability to fund at 8 cents. I think the concept that Senator Wickersham has preliminarily looked at in fact would fund them at 8 cents, perhaps even less. But whatever time I have left I'll extend it to Senator Wickersham, if he'd like to briefly touch on that.