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get exempted. In some cases it will be a problem because there will be people with very, very low incomes who will have higher than \$32,000 homes, but that is still true probably of people with \$40,000 homes. In some cases there will be people with low incomes with large homes. The preferable way to do this whole thing as I have said before is to really target in on income and ability to pay and you can't do that with our present very simple system of determining income. But I think this bill is going to cost too much and therefore a number of people will vote against it if we don't cut this back, and so what this does is it increases from our present \$25,000 it increases it \$12,000 more for almost just a little less than a fifty percent increase in the valuation of a home that can be exempted. Now that is a little less than fifty percent increase. It will cost us substantially more but I think it is the reasonable thing to do, and with that in mind I urge the body to adopt this amendment and I...yes, I urge you to adopt the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, thank you. I am going to have to oppose Senator Newell. I would like to emphasize the fact that I have been trying to get the figures from the Department of Revenue, but I do know that Douglas County had an increase of reevaluation of approximately 56 percent. I don't want to be held too closely on that figure, but if I can remember correctly, it was about 56 percent increase in valuation of the homeowner. I am not taking into consideration business at all. The increase that I am asking for from 25 to 40 thousand is an increase of 37½ percent. Now Senator Newell said that there will be many that will not vote for this amendment because of its cost. I would prefer that he brought this amendment in on Select File and let this amendment go at the 40,000 level to see what support it does have. Thirty-seven and a half percent increase... when I introduced the homestead exemption two years ago, I asked at that time that it be increased to 30,000. The committee saw fit to cut that down to 25,000. Now since the reevaluation, and I know many of you have received the same letters that I have. It is difficult for the elderly to understand that for four or five years, or whenever the homestead exemption first went into effect, they had not been paying any property tax whatsoever because they were 100 percent exempt. Now they are writing me and asking me why did I get a bill from the County Assessor for three or four hundred dollars, or some as high as six and seven hundred dollars. That is almost in some cases even more than they were paying before they received the homestead exemption.