

recognition of underlying problems and that is, I would agree, a first step towards solution. Why would I vote against this amendment? Because this amendment does not recognize the legitimacy of a goal of 662. It starts with a different assumption and that is that it would be permissible to continue to allow differences in obligation, in tax obligation to be out there in the support of education. And it's like that nub of the issue, it's not up for debate with the proponents. That is the nugget of the issue and one for which there's already agreement, commitment, belief. It's part of the values that we bring with us when we try to pass 662 and to adopt the Scofield amendment is to take a step back and say, no, it might well be right for people to have different kinds of tax obligations for education. I'm not prepared to study that issue. I'm not prepared to delay that issue. If this year isn't the right year, I might agree to that because 15 years ago would have been the right time to address that question. Are there questions on implementation and do they deserve study? Are there perhaps other ways of achieving that goal and perhaps the answer is yes. I would recognize that. In the first place, as Senator Scofield points out, nobody is in a binding situation for three years. We have plenty of time to study if that's the issue. Secondly, I have an amendment up there myself to offer a delayed implementation date so that 662's terms could not be applied immediately to a given situation. That, too, permits study to occur, alteration, amendment if you will. But what is not for me personally up for study, what's not for me personally as up for compromise and discussion is the question of whether or not we should permit two tiers of governmental and taxation obligations to exist for people with respect to education. I've already made up my mind, we have to all be in the same boat and that boat is supporting education K-12 and owning and running and managing and being responsible for elementaries, junior highs and high schools, everyone. I'm not prepared to study that. That's my own belief. It's a goal that I carry with me and it's at the heart of 662. How to do that? I'll be willing to discuss. But the study doesn't do that. It doesn't recognize my goal and how that can be affirmatively recognized in the study, it's not there. We could wind up next year and have the study and have everybody walk away from exactly the same points of view that they have today. I'll study inside the recognition of a legitimacy of that goal because that goal, and I may be in the minority today, but that goal is mine