

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think that Senator Hoagland has probably said everything that I would have said. I think we have all been torn by these different propositions that relate to the Schmit amendment and I didn't vote for them in the first instance but I think that with this particular modification that we are probably to the point now that in terms of integrity and in terms of being able to do it both, reality, in almost every way this is something that we can do and this is something that I have been committed to work towards, that I am prepared to vote for in that particular time period, and I suspect that most of the freshmen are, most of them came committed to property tax relief. So I suppose that with some intrepidations that I am willing at this point in time to support the DeCamp amendment and give it our best shot.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise with some trepidation because it sounds like there may be some sort of agreements reached here that I don't know anything about, that I may be about to mess up or at least be a voice crying in the wilderness against those agreements. But I am not...first of all, I would like to say that I agree generally with what Senator Hoagland said, with what Senator Beutler said, with what Senator DeCamp said that we need to do something about the funding of education. I guess I am not that excited about doing that by a hurried-up, quickly drafted amendment to a bill that is sitting here on Final Reading when we have what I think is an excellent vehicle to do this more intelligently, more deliberative, in a more deliberate fashion sitting on General File just a couple of days away from us. And with that I would like to just, so I make sure I understand, this amendment as compared with LB 505 that is sitting there on General File, I would like to ask Senator Remmers two or three questions about his bill as it compares to how he understands this drafted amendment here that we have before us. First of all, Senator Remmers, LB 505, could you explain, first of all, that is a state aid to education measure, is it not?

SENATOR REMMERS: Yes, as introduced it was to have a cent and a half sales tax go into the state aid formulas and it has come out, I think, I haven't read the committee decision