

Withem is attempting to amend with some changes to is the philosophy of applying the valuation, or the tax base, to that particular ability to figure out a way to pay for a service that you don't provide in your own district, instead of on a per pupil basis. Now if you are going to do that, if you are going to accept...whichever philosophy you are going to accept, if you are going to accept the per pupil philosophy, then you probably ought to vote against the Withem amendment. If you are going to accept the valuation philosophy, then I suggest you vote against the Lamb amendment because you can't have it both ways, it doesn't seem to me. You can't say we are going to use valuation but yet go back to a per pupil cost that is nothing less than the per pupil cost. Secondly, the Education Committee when we discussed special ed, our special ed bill this year, LB 942, now I pointed this out to those of you in the body that there was one philosophical decision that we tried to make and that is once we set the criteria, once we establish the mechanism, then should a student who didn't qualify for special ed be able to be served by a school district or should we simply say, no, we are not going to give that authority to the school district to add more to the cost. We are not going to cause a mechanism whereby one school district is whipsawed by the school districts down the road who might have served them, so, therefore, we are going to simply say, no, here is the line and you cannot serve them. It seems to me this same philosophy could apply here. We are telling those schools here is a mechanism we are going to use to figure tuition. Once that tuition is established, now the decision should be, do we want School District A who may feel the pressure from their outside constituents or outside neighbors to lower their tuition costs and then force that much more pressure on School District B down the road to do the same thing. I think we had ought to set the standards, we had ought to say here is the standards, now you will all adhere to those standards. Finally, I think we will be, and we had ought to all recognize it, there will be some school districts who will lower the tuition rate on purpose because then they will qualify for more state dollars, and I am not sure that is a good idea. If they are going to take more state equalization dollars, and we are not going to put any more dollars in, then we are going to be taking those dollars from somebody else, and maybe you had ought to be thinking about that. Senator Lamb talks about a printout. That is probably one of the things that you ought to be thinking about if you remove that language.