

property taxpayer back in our districts. For that reason what I'm proposing in this particular amendment is that we treat all of education the same, that we make the cut to local schools the same two percent across the board cut that we made for the University the other day. For that reason I'm asking that you return this bill to Select File for the specific amendment of adopting this particular amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, please. Senator Haberman, please. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I rise to support this amendment in the name of equity. We talked a lot about the University and the importance particularly in this time of change in jobs, occupations, technology, life styles. But the real basis of education is what happens in our primary and secondary schools. If we don't have a good foundation, if we don't provide that foundation at those early levels, all the rest is for naught. Now I don't want to kid you, I don't think this is going to give property tax relief. It hasn't in the past. We've talked about it and it is not enough to give property tax relief, let's be honest with that. But it is equitable, it is fair according to our regard for education, and the fact that primary and secondary education are very important, the basis, the building blocks, if you will, for our higher education. The state is responsible for all of these, that is in our Constitution. While I don't kid myself that this will be property tax relief, I would like the school districts to look hard at their budgets and to try to aim their reductions and make reductions in those areas that will not hurt the students. But it is very difficult, as we all know, to make cuts and where to cut them. But we have to rely on our local school districts as being those people that are the most responsible and know what kind of basic education our young people need to build on for the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd urge that the amendment be rejected. One thing, when we look at the change in state operations and aid money that I hope you would recall, it wasn't too many years ago that the counties paid 20 percent of the cost of Medicaid. As of