

placing 5.6 percent times the burden on the poor as on the rich, but we are going to make it even greater as a burden on the poor. So I hope we will vote to reconsider and then when the Schellpeper amendment is before us again, I hope that we will vote to take it off the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Lamb. I do not see Senator Lamb. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate, have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased and, Senator Withem, would you like to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: Very briefly, Senator Baack, members of the body. There has been a good debate on the Schellpeper amendment, whether it needs to be retained on the bill, or whether it doesn't. I really do think that this is probably going to be a pivotal vote on the course of whether this Legislature is going to deal with this problem this year, or whether we are going to immerse ourselves within the muck and mire of our procedures and not accomplish anything. And I seriously believe we are in danger of doing that. If the Schellpeper amendment stays on the bill, quite frankly, I think we will be in a position where our horns will be locked and you will not see LB 829, LB 320, or much of anything else in the tax arena done this session. I know we tend to overstate our positions on occasion, but I seriously believe that in this particular case. We have a tough, tough job in front of us and I have been concerned that, as a Legislature, we somehow haven't become quite aware of that, and this is for real. This is not spring training, and this is not all the other analogies that we can use, this is it. This is for real. We have to do something with our tax situation or the whole thing is likely to be thrown out. And this Legislature will go down in history as the Legislature that did nothing while that was happening. It is critical, I think, that we pass a fair, equitable, temporary