

core of the amendment, what the amendment is driving at, a greater tax equity in the way we finance education has not really been addressed full bore and the reason for that is that to not do what this amendment does is indefensible. There is no defense from a policy point of view. This is simply a...this is good policy, this is something that is crying to be done as far as the way we organize schools goes and has been for a number of years and frankly the larger issue here is the way that we organize government in general and this goes way beyond simply the issue of the Class VI's that we're talking about now because once this domino falls, then we have a number of others that fall as well regarding how we fund school districts, how we organize government in general, how efficient government is in the State of Nebraska because what we're talking about is that very core issue of how we distribute the revenue that we have available to fund the way that government works. And the simple fact is that even though this bill was introduced, came to the Revenue Committee, was killed on a 6-2 vote with myself and Senator Withem voting against it, the fact is that this is a policy decision that is a no "brainer". It's something that we ought to be doing now, that we ought to have done a long time ago frankly. I would urge your support for the motion to return and I would give any time I have remaining to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I'm sorry, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: How much time is left, Madam...

PRESIDENT MOUL: About two and a half...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, that should do it. A couple of points I'd like to bring up, I was listening to Senator Wickersham and I had to kind of smile on a couple of the arguments. They're good parochial arguments for the western part of the state which I gratefully share with other senators in representing the people out there, but to make the argument that if we advanced it, if we agree to this amendment that we're going to have people paying for other people's education, that's simply an invalid argument, period, because if I don't have any children I'm paying property taxes for other people's children