

## Commissioner Kleppner Questions on Education Draft

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1. My biggest question is whether we want to recommend waiting to incorporate renters, or recommend that they be included right away.
2. I'm not sure what this means "Both remedies treated the low end (homeowners with low incomes, or districts with low tax bases per pupil) and not the homeowners or districts with the greatest ability."
3. First paragraph on p. 15 after the numbered list says "The \$225 housesite cap would be eliminated . . . " – should be \$225,000?
4. I've thought for a while that the cost of health care should not be included in school budgets. I think all teachers/staff/administrators should be on the same plan as the state employees, and it should be paid for with health care dollars, not education dollars. This would make school budgets more closely reflect the cost of education, and would pull one of the big drivers of rising school costs, which are health care costs, out of the school budgets, which would drop the growth rate in education spending, and allow us to solve education spending and health care spending separately.
5. On the "Pros" of Option 2, should we add that it will deliver meaningful property tax relief, which has been a top request of Vermonters? And related to that, it will move the property tax on residential property to a purely local tax, so local property taxes will be used for local sidewalks, local police, etc?
6. I think it's a little confusing that we recommend both Option 2 and Option 3. And would make the same comment as above re. adding Property Tax Relief and residential property taxes becoming purely local to the Pros list.
7. I also wonder if we should address the concern that some people raised about how two households with similar income will pay the same ed tax, even though one house is worth \$150,000 and the other is worth \$450,000. In isolation, that's true, but the local property tax will in fact tax the more valuable house at a higher level, so combining the two leads to both horizontal and vertical equity.