

growth rate.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, thank you. You know the concern I have is many times that, from the districts, when you have a small district that transportation cost is something that there really isn't a lot of savings for and it has to be factored in if there is more people that contract. A couple of the schools basically contract with other areas to take care of the special ed and those costs are in "transportating" and in transporting those students to a different school several miles away and because of the different time frame they've tried many ways to see if they could pick up several and make one trip, but a lot of times arrangements and schedules don't fit, so those students have to be taken on special times and it sometimes is only one student in a vehicle which is very costly to do. And I don't know in those small school districts if there is another way we can handle that or allow the schools some flexibility to work under that system where they could possibly find some cost savings in transportation, but I just don't know if it's there and that's why I raised the question in terms of transportation being something that is locked in, that there really, in many cases, isn't for the small schools anyway, isn't a mechanism where they could save. And it's just going to have to, they may have to make their savings in other areas to help pay for that added transportation cost. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Pedersen, the remaining lights on on the Bohlke amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Landis, I would ask if Senator McKenzie would yield to a question, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator McKenzie, would you take a question?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska, proceed.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator McKenzie, I certainly applaud the idea of reducing expenditures. Obviously, I think it's a good move. But one of the questions I have is, are we at the same time reducing some of the mandates that some of the schools have that's...you know, if we don't work these together then it's going to cause a real problem with some of the schools in order