

looking at other alternatives in other states, and in particular Montana's block grant approach, because Montana has a very similar geography and distribution of school districts, similar to Nebraska, rural districts, large districts and those recommendations will come from the Accountability Commission.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: I would like to suggest and have it on the record that we at least take a look at that particular area because if you've got a program that's only running at 50 percent of what you want it to run and another program is running at 100 percent and you're going to cut 10 percent, well obviously you've only got 40 compared to 90 again and I think it needs to be done in a fair way. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Before we move to Senator Vrtiska, our next speaker, the Chair would like to recognize guests of Senator Bohlke. These are 55 fourth graders and two sponsors, and they're in the south balcony. And they are from the Alcott Elementary School in Hastings. Students, if you'd stand up we'd like to see you, recognize you and wave to you. Thanks for coming today. Senator Vrtiska, you are recognized on the McKenzie amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Landis and members of the Legislature. I would again like to say that I certainly applaud the effort to reduce spending in any area of government that we can do. However, I have some real concerns I think I need to address or to get some questions from Senator McKenzie, if she would yield, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator McKenzie, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Vrtiska, you may proceed.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator McKenzie, one of the superintendents or administrators of one of the school districts that contacted me indicated that if in fact some of these reductions in funding from the state and federal takes place that some of the costs will be shifted to the local level. Do you see that as a possibility or how do you address that issue?