

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator Vrtiska, that is certainly a concern and that was the concern about the cap on the original bill. Capping the amount that we would reimburse or provide to school districts without looking for ways to deliver services in a different way, to look at all the requirements for transportation, requirements for identification and verification, all of those have to be reviewed in order to find ways to save some money, to bring down those costs. Clearly I know members of the Education Committee are concerned about that. We do not want to pass the burden back to the district to increase property tax to handle the problem. But unless we deal with the problem, the state's ability to provide money for equalization to districts will soon be in jeopardy as well.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well I understand that and I appreciate that. But we still go back to the same issue that we discussed when I talked to you before, and that is if we continue to mandate certain programs that a district has to carry out, either from the federal, the court or from the state, and we don't provide a sufficient amount of money to carry on those programs, it looks to me like...I mean I guess I'm certainly in favor of some type of reduction. My greatest fear is if the reduction comes at the expense of local taxpayers and we in fact, if we're not able to adjust some way those costs that we're indebted to in the special ed field, if we can't somehow get those under control and it really...I don't think there is any other way except to pass it down to the local taxpayers, which you know is going to cause more problems than they're experiencing right now. And I guess my real concern is that somehow through this whole process we keep that in mind and try to come to an understanding how we can do it. And I applaud you for attempting to do this because I think it's important. I guess again, my only fear is that it doesn't in fact end up being just a transfer to who pays the bill. And I don't know if you have any comments along that line or what your committee has decided. Obviously there was a great deal of opposition to this all the way along and I can understand that. Always when we have to make these kinds of cuts and we understand it in all levels of government, there is always going to be objections. I guess my hope is that we can make those cuts in the least damaging manner and still provide what we're going to be required to by the various levels of government, so do you have anything wise and helpful that you can add to my conversation?

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator McKenzie, apparently the rest of his