

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, that is a whole new ball game if, in fact, we lose a significant amount of our funding from the federal level for Medicaid, for example, because...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Right.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...we use that to help fund zero to three.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Right.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Most of the money, however, that is paid, of this 122 million is state money, that is state money.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yeah, I understood it was, but I thought there was some federal dollars that were...that we were using at this time, and I was just curious, looking at the federal budget and attempts to reduce grants, if that...if any discussion had been held regarding that and how it would affect. If you have any idea who it would affect the total dollars that would need to be, you know, available if in fact that happened. I don't know that it's that important, but it can be important if it's a significant amount.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: As it will be if they cut our highway funds or (inaudible).

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I understand that, we're not talking about the highway light now,...

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yeah, right.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...we're talking about education of our kids and I'm really concerned about...obviously you know what my whole thesis here is and I can't deny it, and that is my fear of...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...local dollars being generated in order to pick up any other costs that we incur...that we lose through any other attempts by the federal government to reduce their expenditures. And, you know, that continues to be a concern, and I'm sure it is of everybody's and I'm not sure we can do anything about it. But I just thought that the issue is important enough to at least have it brought to our attention