

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bromm, you have two and a half minutes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, thank you and Sen...thank you, Senator Bohlke, for your remarks. Like to express appreciation for the information received in...and support from Senator McKenzie and the other Senators who have spoken on the topic. And, Senator Bernard-Stevens, thank you for making the debate necessary because we all learn, we all learn by the process. I do want to remind the body, I think sometimes we forget what we're talking about in terms of the costs here, schools pay for the regular per pupil cost of even a special ed student. What we're talking about is a percentage of the excess reimbursable cost over and above that average per pupil cost that the school already pays for. Okay? So...so that we're not talking about 100 percent of the cost of educating that student, we're talking about the excess reimbursable cost. That's one point that I wanted to make. I know that the lobby has been fairly strong on this issue and I would expect them to be. They are the advocates for the schools and I wouldn't expect the schools, after the trend of the growth in...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ..spending in this area, to come in and jump up and down and say, yes, we...there are a lot of things we can cut, yes, we do want you to cap...cap the fund and...and put the pressure on us. I wouldn't expect them to do that so it would be natural that the lobby would be taking that position and I understand that. We're talking about changing a system. We're not talking about dollars for one year. That's...that's really not relevant compared to the system that we're looking at. We want to change it for the long term and in order to do that we think we need to make some rather significant adjustments in the short term to bring everybody to the table to find out where we can actually make the reductions and the changes, provide the flexibility, and we're talking about changing a system. So if you want to change the system, we'd like your support on this. We're not looking at this as a one-year proposition, by any means, but this is a first step in looking at a long-term solution to a problem that's been very much frustration and very much out of control. Thank you all for listening.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. There's been a request