

much...quite a bit higher, obviously, in the rate of growth in special ed than it was in general education. And I'm pleased to see that we are doing something to get at it. And I had a good conversation with the school superintendent this morning who, of course, was not thrilled with what we were proposing to do, but recognized the need and the necessity for us to look at it and said that they would be willing to work with it. And I assume most of you have talked to school superintendents. I firmly believe we can do some things in the area of classifications that would be a help to everyone. And with that idea I was willing to move forward with what we had. And with this, I think, does give some sense of responsibility to recognizing the need for increases, but at least it is at a rate that sends the message, quote, which we're famous for trying to do, and still should provide some realistic growth that people can work toward and know it's coming. The figures I have, I don't think they've announced on the floor. This would take it from 122 million, almost, just under 122 million this year, to \$124,325,645 in '96-97, and in '97-98, which actually is beyond our next biennium, will take it to \$128,055,414. The savings over what we had been doing, if we would have kept on the present track, in '96-97 would be a savings of 9 million there, and in this...the out year, '97-98, we will be 18.9 million less than the growth rate that...with the track that we were on. Obviously those are estimates, so you can't necessarily write those in concrete, but that is a rough idea of what this does. So it does help slow the train down a little bit, and I think that we can move on with some responsible changes that I know we're all going to be watching. So I do support the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President, members, as we sit here listening to this debate and like last evening and so on, those of us who don't have a lot of offer maybe on a subject, our expertise is not in that area, why we appreciate the ones that do have the expertise and can work these things out. We may sit here and say, gee whiz, I wish both sides could get together so we can come to a meeting of the minds and don't really have to make this tough decision that many of us hate to make. This issue is an important issue and it affects a lot of people, it affects a lot of people drastically. Maybe we haven't had to live in that world that this necessarily affects. But I do appreciate those people, like Senator McKenzie, Senator Bohlke,