

state aid formula. If we were adding more money to the state aid formula, it would be property tax reduction for some people in our state. We are not doing that. It is a readjustment. And what does this have to do with our whole property tax debate? One point that I think has been lost is if we do impose caps, if we do impose levy limitations on local school districts, we have to have enhanced equalization at the state level. We absolutely have to have that, if we are going to hold out any premise that we believe that our young people in this state deserve some sort of a form of equal education opportunity because a dollar levy to support schools, a 90 cent levy to support schools, a \$1.20 levy to support schools raises different sums of money in different school districts. If you have a lot of valuation per student in a given school district, then a \$1.20 cap or a \$1 cap or a 90 cent cap is not going to hurt you so much. You are going to be able to continue to offer a quality education program. But if you have very low valuation per pupil and you are limited the amount of money that you can raise at the local level, then you have to have more money come from the state. It's as simple as that. You know, I caught some criticism last summer for criticizing our Auditor who said the state aid formula was so complex, and I indicated it's not all that complex, and it really isn't, if you look at the heart of it. The heart of it is if you have...if you are able to raise a lot of money at the local level, at a low property tax rate, then you don't need as much money from the state. If you have very few resources that you can access at the state level, and, yes, Senator Robak and Senator Coordsen, you know, you've very eloquently given the argument of what's accessible and what isn't, but in our state, property still continues to be the predominant means of financing education, and if you don't have a lot of property at the local level, then you need support from someplace else in order to educate the kids, and that's what equalization is all about. This bill enhances the amount of money that goes to support the kids throughout the state. Quite frankly, I don't know, my two local school districts, Omaha Public Schools, and Papillion-LaVista Schools, historically have tended to benefit from the equalization formula. But my...but particularly Papillion-LaVista is going to continue, as long as there is any money going in equalization that school district is going to benefit. Those school districts that tend to benefit by this type of bill are those that are on the cusp. And we had a list of schools that we gave to the Education Committee of school districts that benefit tremendously, and what they tend