

rather much, much higher over the, of the typical variance from the typical, if you can describe it typical, but the average school districts in our state, and they want to spend that amount of money because they value the education of their students to such a high degree, then I guess that's a philosophical question whether or not the Legislature should be dictating to those local school districts how much money those local schools should be spending. More importantly, I guess, it comes into the issue of this state aid issue in determining what is the proper amount. I mean, we're saying to them, to some degree, that maybe they're spending too much money or too little money on educating the youth of our state. But we've allowed, to some degree, that discretion to be, take place with their local school boards. Now getting back to the issue of the options, we are, in essence, telling them how much they should be spending because in this particular proposal we're reducing the amount of money that we're going to be allowing those school districts to be spending on those option students. So in essence, I think we're discouraging the option program from existing. Now, maybe some school districts have had a terrible experience with this option program, and I know there's members on the floor that have a problem with the option program, and some school districts may have a problem with it, but maybe their focus should be more on reducing their costs, if that's, if you want to carry out the logical argument. Some school districts, though, they view the option student as something that invigorates their school district, it allows for the interplay of ideas, much the same as when you go to college campuses and they bring in students that want to be there, they want to learn, they want the education that that school district is providing. Some school districts don't take that philosophy. I guess that's the difference of philosophies...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...of school districts. But certainly the...I think it's a step backward, in this particular bill, to be restricting the amount of money that the state is going to be providing for those option students because of...and that was the philosophy originally. I think we made some major modifications. But I think this is a step towards reducing the amount of option students that we do have. I'm a firm believer in it, I think it's a good program, and I believe that any ways to restrict it should be discouraged. So...and that's not to