

ccsts. It's a...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...reasonable cap, I think it was suggested by Senator McKenzie, and we appreciate that suggestion. So it's a combined amendment in every way. It's not going to be one of these ballooning type things that distorts the state aid formula. But I think it's an addition that is in accordance with the philosophy of 1050 as it has been expressed and developed on the floor so far this year and ought to be a part of the package we put together. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I'd yield my time to Senator Abboud.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator, it is Abboud, is that correct? (Laugh.) Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, thank you, Senator Brown. I want to comment on this. I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about it. But I...in the past, this Legislature had a philosophy of viewing aid to school districts for special education as a separate issue. And in the past we provided, I believe, about 90 percent of cost, or the cost determined by the state for those special ed students, and there was a great deal of debate because every year the special ed costs continued to rise year after year after year, costing the state additional money. There was discussion about the need for reform and how we handled special ed because of the increased costs to the state on an annual basis. We made changes, once during the Kerrey administration, once recently, and we had a committee to study these issues. And I guess I would prefer...I don't know what the impact this has on my districts, I don't know if anybody else does. But I think philosophically I'd have a problem about making any changes right now dealing with the special ed issue until we have a chance to take a look at it, have the committee, the Education Committee looking at it. And after June, after they make their recommendations, during the interim, come back next session and take a look at the whole special ed issue. So I would prefer to wait until next year. I know that this is somewhat of a change also philosophically in