

have outside of the lid because it was an encouragement to perform some cost reductions in the school programs. But I should have given it a couple more minutes of thought and then the light would have come on for me, as I believe it did for Senator Warner that if indeed this effort by a school district to buy the contracts of highly compensated individuals and rehire or replace them with less well compensated individuals was effective, that there ought to be a net savings to the district, and that indeed in that case there would be no need to exceed the limitation. That...if that is the objective then I believe that Senator Janssen's amendment is not needed. And it is that second part of the analysis, it is the realization that the objective of the buy outs is indeed a cost saving, which is the part that may not be so intuitive, as your immediate response to we need to spend money to reduce costs. But if you really have been successful in spending money to reduce costs, you don't need to go outside the lid. And I would support Senator Warner's amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Warner. He waives off. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. We all know that there are areas when schools are put on a levy limit, they are going to have to try to find cost-saving measures. This could mean a variety of things that they are going to sacrifice, as well as counties, townships, any other governmental subdivision. I don't know how people are going to perceive this. It could mean losing a glee club. It could mean losing a teacher for a classroom, extra students in classrooms and so on. And I think by using the early retirement benefit this way it could ease the burden on some of the other things within that school that they are going to have to cut or eliminate in portions of it. We are so used to having the small class sizes, plenty of teachers, you know, to go around. Sure, we all like our activities and so on and so forth. I would imagine these are some of the areas that schools are going to look at to eliminate first, and that is probably where it's going to bite the hardest in smaller communities, especially is when you lose some of the activities the schools have. I'm not advocating that we need those. The education is the first thing. But there are areas in education that I think you're going to see some reductions in, hopefully not eliminations of some of the areas that we do not have to provide but are very