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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kiel, would you yield, please?

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: I believe you mentioned something about these funds or these programs being funded. I did want to make it clear that they are...they will be considered...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...grants, and is it my understanding, did you once serve on the council...

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: ...of the Education Innovative Fund? So you probably saw a number of good projects that schools were involved in.

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes. Okay. Thank you. So I want to just say that there are a number of areas that students are involved in, that schools are involved in, that these are high-cost programs, and that some additional funding would certainly be appreciated in the areas of equipment. I know that the equipment and the facilities are very expensive. So I certainly would ask for your support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Further discussion, Senator Wickersham, followed by Senators Kiel, Don Pederson, Wehrbein, Chambers and Schimek.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to Senator Stuhr's amendment. I think my position on this bill has always been a considerable disappointment to Senator Stuhr. I think she understands the reason for my position, but I feel incumbent to burden you with the reasons for my position. If you look at the bill, you'll see that I signed on. I did that and told Senator Stuhr that I would not vote to advance the bill from committee and I didn't, and I still haven't changed. The reasons that I object to the bill in