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budget adjustments to the '99-2001 biennial budget. With this legislation, and with these budget adjustments, I continue to emphasize the priorities of lower taxes and less government, building our state's economy, and protecting our families, but with an added focus on initiatives which will help to ensure the health, and the safety, and the success of our children. Starting with lower taxes, I am proposing that we repeat the 30 million dollar community college aid that resulted in dollar for dollar property tax relief in 1999. Coupled with the 35 million dollar tax credit, which was approved last year, property tax payers, including the farmer in West Point, the homeowner in Bellevue, the business woman in Lincoln, and the rancher in Cheyenne County, would benefit from \$65 million in direct property tax relief this year. I also propose that we hold to our commitment to allocate "overappropriated" funds in the state aid to education formula to the following year's school aid. This issue was debated extensively when LB 149 and LB 881 were considered by this body a year ago. I believe that policy decision was the right thing to do, especially considering the coming school tax levy drop and the commitment of the Unicameral to substitute state funds for lost property tax revenues. The additional \$30 million in community college aid and the reappropriation of an estimated \$34 million in school aid is a strong commitment to property tax relief, to funding education, and to maintaining the budget agreement which we reached a year ago. Now it is an appropriate time in my comments to pause for a moment and commend the Legislature for your collective commitment to property tax relief. Few issues are as complex and as difficult as this issue. If we provide another year of community college aid, in addition to the direct credit and the school levy drop, a total of \$155 million in state resources will have been dedicated to property tax relief. This is in addition to the areas where the cost of services were transferred from local to state government, such as Medicaid years ago, municipal courts, and property tax assessment that is ongoing. And in addition to those changes, today, approximately 38 percent, or \$888 million of the state General Fund budget, in one form or another, is provided as state aid to local governments to help lower the property tax burden. The plan I have offered fits within your ongoing commitment to be a partner in the property tax relief effort. I ask you to adopt the property tax plan I place before you and then let's continue our