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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: And...I'll put my light on, thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Kremer, you are the next speaker, followed by Senators Redfield, Stuhr, Bromm, and Kristensen.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Schimek, members of the Legislature. I've been listening to debate. And I was going to ask Senator Bohlke some questions, but then they were the same questions that Senator Bromm and Senator Kristensen asked her, too. So I'd like to just make a couple of comments of what I've heard from a school in our district that just this year, starting the year, they were identified of 166 special ed students, and right now, later in the year, they've identified...increased that to 180 students. And I think the state average that I see has increased about 13.4 percent, which has been an increase every year for the last five years. This school is up to around 14 percent that have been identified as special...students with special needs. So I don't know if the testing has changed, or if the students have changed or what. If we are...why the reason for this, but it's putting a tremendous burden on our schools and on property tax with the levy lid that we have. And so anything that we can do along this line would help in the area of our property tax levies and it's something that needs to be done. So I'm in support of the amendments and the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I know that there is a concern about costs, but I think the thing that we have to recognize is that these costs are being paid. We're not talking here about any dollars that we can save or any spending increases that will not occur. The difference is where the funding will come from, because right now when a school district is already at its property tax lid and it looks at its budget taking into consideration the fines and other fees that come to it, the state aid that comes to it, and they have a certain number of dollars to spend, when the requirements for special ed students go up, and they have no choice, they will have to spend that money. They have to take