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SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...Senator Kristensen describes. It did commit us to support of K-12 schools and it did commit us to support of K-12 schools in a way that we might find would cause us to make choices as against other particular needs of the state. But we made that choice last year. I continue to think that that was an appropriate choice. The change in this bill is a change in the way we calculate the level of that support and the intent is to protect our efforts at property tax relief against increasing valuations in the formula. I do not disagree with Senator Kristensen that the policy we put in place last year may cause us to make...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...difficult choices in the future.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen and Senator Wickersham. Senator Wickersham, your light is next if you wish to continue.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, I don't know if I was exactly responsive to Senator Kristensen's question, because I see that he pushed his light and apparently wishes to discuss the issue further. So, Senator Kristensen, rather than trying to guess about what you might want to say, I'm going to yield time to you so that we can make sure that we have your thoughts presented in the order that you want.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Wickersham, you made the assumption that I knew what I was going to ask and I was kind of figuring during your time I'd figure out what I was going to talk about. But...I mean I think you've been very candid and that's what the crux of this debate turns out, I think, to be, that you want to support the schools and you want to lock in that...I can't say commitment but that policy that we're going to keep at the 45 percent level. And you will have tough choices to make and my discussion is I want to be able to make sure I have those choices when it gets tough to make the decision. And so if I vote for this today, what I've done is take away one of my