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decisions I think I get to make, that it's harder in the future for me to come back. And it begs the great philosophic question, what are the...what is the state's obligation? Is my...is my obligation, as a State Legislature, to fund state operations first and then to fund school districts and other political subdivisions? Or is my first obligation to make sure that the school districts, which are local political subdivisions, receive a sufficient level of funding and you guarantee their monies? And then we will find the money or make the cuts at some other place. It's not an easy decision. I...I just want to make sure people understand that they're making some of those decisions today on a bill like this; that it is a decision that you're going to make to say I'm going...I'm going to go with the K-12 school districts first. We've made a huge effort on property taxes, levy limits, spending limitations, taking over functions of local government. And so, Senator Wickersham, I...I know it's your time and I've got my light on and if you need time I'll yield it to you, but my...I guess my request of you is to articulate for us how we are not constricting our choices here this morning. We're making it...we're making a decision today that we are going to fund the K-12s to that 45 percent level first. And if there's a downturn in revenue the choices that are going to get made are choices on the state side of spending and our state budget and not on aid to local government. And with the large percentage of our monies going to local government, haven't you really hamstrung state operations? And I thank you for the time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: There's about two minutes left, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator Kristensen, the question you pose is the perennial question, in effect, and on a variety of occasions we have answered the question you're posing in favor of state operations. I was here in 1991, I think it was when we had the special session and cut \$100 million out of the budget. That was an issue that arose with regard to Medicaid, if you recall. And what we did as we attempted to meet the state's obligation to fund Medicaid, a federally mandated program, was cut state aid to political subdivisions. That's one of the things that we did. We cut state aid to counties, we cut state aid to municipalities, we cut state aid to local governmental