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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Wehrbein and Senator Lynch on the Pederson amendment. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The Pederson amendment raises a question in my mind, I guess, about the general thrust of the study being proposed and I'm gathering from that and, by the way, I'd like to ask a question of Senator Bohlke, if I might.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke, would you respond?

SENATOR RAIKES: Are we, in this study, beginning with the presumption that there will be money for additional teacher salaries collected at the state level and distributed directly from the state level to teachers in individual school systems without it being under the control of local school boards?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Raikes, I don't think that there's anywhere in the study that makes that presumption that that's what would...what would be the final conclusion.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So, as far as you're concerned, it is a possibility that you might decide that simply there would be more financial support provided to local school boards to use as they saw fit for teacher salaries or other purposes?

SENATOR BOHLKE: I think that would be a possibility, a minimum salary level as other states...you know, all those possibilities we discussed in committee would be a possibility for the (inaudible).

SENATOR RAIKES: You would expect that there would be at least some strings tied, if you will, that, for example, it would not be within the realm of possibility that you could decide that, look, it takes an additional 10 percent of base budget for a school system to address all financial needs, including teacher salaries, and so there is an additional 10 percent allocated and it's up to each school board to decide whether that's used for teacher salaries, either a minimum salary or to buy new computers or to do whatever else might be needed.