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FLOOR DEBATE

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to be \$722 million, and nobody is talking about going that high. My wife, who has been an educator, who has been an administrator and a teacher in private and public education, just goes crazy when she watches this happen. She says, don't you understand? Educators are trying to hire staff and make budgets for the next year and beyond, projections, and here you've got this spectrum going with a hundred-million-dollar range of what money they're actually going to get. It's craziness. So I think it's proof that we've got a formula, a system, that isn't working. I'll be offering an amendment to the budget to eliminate state aid in the second year of the biennium and propose that we go to a new funding system for K-12 education. But let me stop there because I don't want to cloud my message right here and now. I'm voting yes on LB 540. We need to do this and I urge you to do the same. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Raikes, could I ask you some questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: One deals with the...you've raised the levy limit as one of the sheets we put around the school districts. We put \$1.00 on it. Now we're going up to \$1.04. What was the rationale of the Education Committee, so forth, to do the \$1.04 rather than \$1.05, \$1.06, \$1.10, so forth? That's my first question. And so that's...and the other part is what budget increase? The other limit is you've allowed the levy to increase. What's the budget increase that you've allowed in this bill? So why did you choose the 4 percent, and what budget increases are allowed in this proposal?

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, all right, I'll try to work on those one at a time, Senator. First, in terms of the \$1.04 choice of a levy limit, I can give you the details of our deliberation of kind of the events as they occurred, and you are certainly free