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with something that will cut back on the money that they're provided, coupled with budget limitations, are we not putting some of these school districts in a position where they will necessarily have to rife teachers in order to abide by their contract agreements in the context of what we're doing here?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, that's certainly a possibility. And what we've done is to try to do our best, if you will, to recognize in this proposal the legitimate needs of school districts to honor the commitments that you've just described, but at the same time allow the state to get to a situation where it could balance its budget. I will tell you that...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is...

SENATOR RAIKES: Excuse me. Go ahead.

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, excuse me. I'd like to hear the full explanation.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I will tell you that this proposal from the spending side, this is not totally realistic, but even with a 0 percent basic allowable growth rate, if you look at, on a statewide basis, and you're absolutely right in saying the situation differs between schools, but on a statewide basis spending, if all budget...unused budget authority, for example would be used and so on, which it won't, spending could increase by nearly 9 percent. So all I'm telling you is that these needs you mentioned are, indeed, legitimate needs, requirements that the school systems need to meet, but I think in coming up with this proposal...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...we have adequately recognized and provided for those needs in...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me, in my 30 seconds left, let me leave you with a question. Isn't there some way, without increasing the burden to the state but by giving additional flexibility to the school districts, to allow them to honor contracts already