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FLOOR DEBATE

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it was very clear that one of the reasons that was driving us was to try to reduce the overreliance on property tax to fund K through 12 education. And if my mind, my small mind, serves me right, we were averaging state aid from sales and income tax somewhere between 24 and 26 percent of the total cost of K through 12 education at that time. Well, now we're up somewhere around 45 percent. Our goal was 50 percent. I think we might have reached that at one time. I just don't even want to imagine...I'd like to see the comparison from Fiscal sometime for all the school districts on what property tax levies would be, and what the average taxes would be on a home, let's say, of 50, 75, 100, 150, if we didn't and hadn't started down the road of providing additional state aid. But let's not forget that there still is an obligation on the part of a local taxpayer. We didn't ever promise we would take it completely away. I like the very simplified approach that we had last year, where we said, we're going to reduce your state aid by "X" number of dollars, and in return we're going to give you the authority, if you choose, to levy to that amount. There's nothing about that that you can't understand. It's not raising from \$1.00 to \$1.04 and what's the state...the local effort rate, and all of these things. So I prefer the simplified solution. But I also know that the will of this body is to make certain that we maintain our thumb on, and control on spending on local school districts. And so I'm willing to concede that. And this is the reason I voted to move LB 540 out. And I'd still like to see a few modifications, and I think we might see those. But at this point, I'm in support of this, because I think it can find the support of the entire body, and we absolutely need it to help fill the hole in this budget. And I would, with that, I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Raikes, if he would like to have it.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you very much, Senator Byars. And thank you for your important help on the committee. Let me again try to correct an error I made in responding to a question that Senator Kremer raised, and that had to deal with...or had to do