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with community college needs or budget authority. And the question he asked, well, was if...I think he asked if student enrollment goes down, would a budget authority go down? And my answer was yes, and it should have been no. The budget base remains. It would not be reduced with a reduction in students. I was confused because if the state funding of community colleges is overdone relative to the formula, then that automatically flows through to reduce property taxes. And you'll recall, that's the mechanism that was used in bringing about a property tax relief program that Governor Johanns had in his first or second year of the...but the budget authority does not go down to student numbers. In response to Senator Baker, he mentioned exclusions beyond the levy limit, and there definitely are some. Lease purchase agreements are one area, but those are being phased out. So presumably, they would not last forever. Those will eventually go away.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: The voluntary termination program, on the other hand, is still ongoing, so that, again, the idea was that school systems could retire or provide severance, if you will, for experienced teachers, and hire less experienced and less salaried teachers for replacements, and whatever money the needed to do that could be outside the levy limit. That program is still in place. He did mention interlocals. And interlocals, although they would provide additional budget authority, would not provide any additional levy authority. So hopefully that helps. With that, I will stop. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Beutler. And this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Raikes, I want to take up again the question that I took up the first two times. But having moved so directly to that question the very first time, I did want to stop just a moment and indicate that I too, obviously, support this bill, and obviously am appreciative of the work that the Education Committee has done in cooperating on this whole big mess that we're...that we have on our hands here. And, you know, in conjunction with that and in conjunction with the