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think it's important that we do what we can as a body here to make sure that funds reach the front lines and as close to the students as possible so that if in the end we can say that we became a little more efficient, but not at the expense of the quality of education on those front lines. It reminds me of a scenario a few years back where some teachers worked really hard and got rid of the old way of teaching in just copying worksheets all the time or, you know, pulling out workbooks for busy work, and modified their way of teaching to be more effective and even more cost effective, believe it or not. And the unfortunate part was the teachers worked harder and not one...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...not one cent went to the teachers for that harder work that they performed. And so as long as we can keep the dollars as close to those front lines as we can, I think we should do that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Connealy, Raikes, Bourne, Wehrbein, Maxwell, Cunningham, Price, Combs. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in strong opposition to this amendment. I'm saying that because, as a state, we have always had the philosophy of local control and this simply would take away any local control from our school boards and the administration. I feel that it would tie the hands of those that have been elected to serve in that capacity and those that have been selected as being administrators of our schools. I believe that it would limit the local district's ability to control their budget. And I'd like to share a comment that I received from one of my local schools. As a board and administrative staff, we started the discussions of cutting our budget and also having to dismiss some of our teachers, which was indeed traumatic. But as a board and administrative staff, we started the discussions of what will harm children and their opportunities the least, and we worked back from there. I think that's a decision that local boards of education have been empowered to make, and that's the