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because I have such a strong feeling about education and the opportunity for our youth in this state to get an adequate education that I think it's important, terribly important, that we protect education as best we can. As most of you know, K-12 education has taken a tremendous amount of hits in this state, in many of the schools, and many of the schools that I represent have found themselves in dire straits. Now the issue is going to come up, I'm sure, and of course Senator Maxwell has brought this out, we need to change the way we fund education. We need to get consolidated. And you know, it's easy for people in the urban area to talk about consolidation to save money, and it does, but it doesn't save as much as you might guess in the rural areas simply because of the distance involved in not only for kids to travel but the inconvenience it presents to those youth to have to travel these distances to participate not only in the educational process but in the extracurricular activities. When you got kids that have to spend an hour to an hour and a half on a bus to get to this consolidated school that they're going to be in, that's not providing a quality education in my mind, and I just have to address that because I think it's important when we're talking about the kind of cuts that we want to make to get the goal that we're trying to reach. My goal, as many of you, is to provide this kind of an education. The thing that I'm concerned about is when we talk about higher education, as we take money away from higher education we're going to have to raise that money in order to keep those schools open. And where is it going to come from? It's going to come out of the pockets of the dads and the moms of those kids going to college. I sent all of my kids to college and they have good educations. And I worked hard to pay for those, because I'm not a rich person, but I worked because my kids wanted to go to school and I wanted to give them that opportunity. But you know what? If we continue to take money away from our higher institutions, I don't know if some people are going to be able to afford to send those kids. Now those that can get scholarships, or on the lower end that can get Pell Grants and those kind of...that kind of help is not so bad. The people who are wealthy it's not so bad. But the people like me that are in the middle, it's a real challenge to provide the kind of education that our kids are entitled to and that we want to give them, if we expect these kids to be successful in life, and after all, that is in fact