

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...I think the compromise that's being offered here, in my view, is the very best that education could hope for in the circumstances that we're in. There will still be some who would want to do more than we're doing, but some don't want to do this. So to me it represents the compromise or at least a compromise on a portion of the budget that I have to swallow hard and vote for, and I hope that you will too. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Mines, followed by Senator Johnson, Cunningham, Kremer, Kruse, and others.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I'm going to stand in support of Senator Raikes' amendment. I wasn't going to at first. My inclination was, oh, here we go, we're going to cut back \$2 million on a \$10 million deal that was put together and I assume all parties agreed to it out in the lobby and with the leadership here. I understand that K-12 and higher ed bid off on both of their cuts and that this body would then move forward. And I thought, oh, here we go with another \$2 million give back. But after doing a little bit of research, I find that Senator Raikes' estimate of \$8 million is close. If every school district raised their levy by a cent, it would generate about \$9.8 million, and certainly all school districts won't do that. And let's be very clear about this. We're not taking any money away from schools. We're shifting the burden of paying for schools from state aid to property tax. We're not going to cut any revenue. This, in fact, the same amount of money, is if schools' school boards, local elected officials choose to raise their levy by a penny, local schools will capture the same amount of revenue that we are...that we are taking out of our appropriations. We're not taking the food out of children's mouths. We are leaving the decisions to local education, to those that are in local education, not to this body. And I do support this amendment. It's not as much as my personal thoughts would be. I, you know, certainly am a slash and cut kind of person, I guess, but this is a middle ground somewhat and I will support the Raikes amendment and support AM1881. Thank you, Mr. President.