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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'd just like to finish a little bit about what I started to talk about before about the situation here in Lincoln. And I'm not trying to say that we have it worse than anybody else. I'm just trying to say, I'm sure that you're all having...your school districts are all having these kinds of situations. But the subject about saying no to athletics and all the other curricular activities, extracurricular activities, and the fact that the school board is talking about it, does not mean that the board members do not understand the value of all of these things. Without these things, it is estimated that the dropout rate could go higher than the current 18 percent, which is too much already. A couple of years ago, the state...the Lincoln Board of Education started talking about transportation in the school district. And now the district provides only the very barest of transportation to its district. So I don't think that they're just talking here. They were really trying to make the public understand that school funding has reached a place where cuts will be deeper than they have ever been before. And the school board president, Doug Evans, reminded us that they can't...these cuts can't be made at the expense of teacher salaries, because in a newly released teacher compensation survey, LPS salaries are well below both national and north-central U.S. averages for both minimums and maximums. So that's just one board that I'm talking about. I really want to redirect your attention to how much we have already cut in education in the last two sessions. In last year, we cut \$22 million, \$22 million in TEEOSA; this year, \$44 million. Then we did increase special ed, so you have to subtract \$27.2 million from that. But then you have to add back in. And eventually what you get to...you have to add back in the eight. Eventually what you get to is, as I figure it, anyway, about \$55 million that we're cutting from education, and have cut from education. So you can talk about all the university cuts you want. But we're certainly cutting very severely from regular education across the state. I don't know how this is going to go. I have a feeling that there is support for this compromise. I don't know if that's true or not. But I would encourage you to really talk to some of the teachers back in your district. Talk to some of the people in your district before you make this