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SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Quandahl. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Don Pederson and others.

SENATOR RAIKES:      Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm going to support the amendment. I think the case has been made very well by Senators Beutler and Wehrbein and Quandahl and Chambers and maybe others. The only point I'd like to add is a somewhat unrelated one. This claim involves the intentional act of a state ward and I think maybe the impression was revealed at a point or two that these are troubled kids. I think many of these kids are the product of troubled circumstances, but I don't want you to go away with the impression that they're all troubled kids. These are, many of them, extraordinary young people; again, have been through some difficult circumstances, but it's a state obligation to provide accommodation for these young people and also educational services, and I think you should look on that responsibility happily. Because if you get an opportunity to talk to some of these kids, you're going to be very impressed with the quality of people we have there. So again, I support the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON:      Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's been said time and again, but this is not an obligation of the state. So what is our obligation then? Our obligation is to approve obligations of the state. And I think I've practiced law too many years I think, but anyway, I just think it's a question of what is our responsibility. And I know it's often said that bad facts make bad law, and I think we've fallen into that trap, and I don't think we dare do that as a matter of precedent. I think, as harsh as it may sound, I agree with Senator Quandahl. We can't approve this kind of a claim. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Brashear, on the Wehrbein amendment to the committee amendments.