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way to do it. I think that we probably ought to fully fund the formula, and that we ought to do as we've done in the past with community colleges when they've been out of sync, like Western Community College. We added money to the formula to bring them up to parity. And that would be the best way to do it. That would not ask for more local support to do this. But under the budget that we're in now, as Senator Pederson has said, this is probably the best that we can negotiate, that the locals in northeast Nebraska would step up. If the board goes to the two-thirds majority and asks for this authority to go up above the lid, then they would allow to do that, to meet what really is a growing need in northeast Nebraska. And now, as we look at trying to turn that around in Dakota County, that has traditionally moved across to Western Iowa Tech in Iowa for their education at a much higher rate than it costs in Nebraska, to try to bring some of that back to Nebraska, and keep those people here in Nebraska, and educate everyone on a somewhat closer par that the other schools do, I believe that this is...even though it's not the best solution, that it is probably the only solution that we can provide to make that step toward some parity within the community college system in the state of Nebraska. And I want to thank everybody for this negotiated kind of settlement that we've come up with.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Further discussion. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As is often the case when I listen to Senator Raikes, I get confused. And so I wonder if he would yield to a question or two, so that maybe I can sort this out in my mind.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: I will.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Raikes. And that wasn't a derogatory statement. It's just, you...you know, you exist at a different level than a former body man from Omaha. I just wanted you to know that.