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SENATOR RAIKES: I would remind you...am I through?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Sorry, your time is up.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Heidemann.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I will be more than happy to let Senator Raikes finish that thought. Then I'd have a question for him, if he would so let me ask.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. My point was going to...simply to finish the thought, is that community college areas not only operate efficiently but they are a growing institution in the state in terms of educating people at the postsecondary level, and they're also an important part of economic development in the state. So, Senator Heidemann, thank you.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: And I will admit they do operate efficiently, something that is very much needed in this state. But I've always thought that we funded education wrong in this state. I've always thought that we relied too heavily on property taxes to fund education in this state, not only in the K-12 districts, but probably in the community with the community colleges. Senator Raikes, you came in before Appropriations and you asked for more funding for special education. Why did you do that?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, I hope as I explained then, this is an obligation that schools have; they don't have any choice on. It's a federal mandate. They have to fund the programs. It doesn't make a lot of sense to, in my mind, not to provide the money to cover those expenses and, in fact, from the state's