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FLOOR DEBATE

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its historical trend, and with these increased contributions from the school and the school employees in LB 503, it is expected that the state will be required, or will need to make an additional contribution to the school fund. And I believe that the Appropriations Committee is aware of that. I think that LB 503, with this amendment, it does strike a good compromise. And I do really appreciate the respective school districts and the employees coming forth to approve this contribution rate. And I would hope that the body would approve this amendment, which would provide some additional budget authority to the school districts. With that, I ask for your support to return this to Select File. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Would Senator Raikes yield to a few questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Raikes, I'm trying to piece together the proposal here with my own thoughts. And you said that we wouldn't be setting this outside the lid, or there wouldn't be a relaxation of the lid, but this would affect the budget authority. Is that accurate?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. What I should have said is, we're not going to do a once and for all increase in the budget base. Rather, there would be a budget exception for this...the amount that would...they would actually be obligated for, for two years and two years only.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. So if a district has...or, is not up against the lid of property tax...the levy limit, I should say, so there's some capacity there, this...these expenditures would fit within that capacity?

SENATOR RAIKES: They could. I think the obvious way to see the benefit would be, if a school had, as you described, capacity on