action in connection with the later handling of this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Further discussion on the Raikes amendment, Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I am in support of Senator Raikes' proposal, and I'd like to share a few thoughts with you about special education funding. My thoughts won't necessarily be approved by all of my colleagues out in the education world. Frankly, some of them would say, let's pay for it with General Fund money because it has a bigger effect on state aid down the road. I don't believe that's the best way to approach this problem, but that is a feeling of some people. And I may be challenged a little bit by some of my friends in the Department of Education on what I have to say, but that's okay. I spent many, many years in special education administration. And when we began, it was really quite simple. We would receive 90 percent reimbursement for level I funds, which is speech therapy and so on outside of the classroom. We would receive 90 percent reimbursement for those programs that are classroom programs once we had reached per pupil expenses, and the same thing with level III students, which were usually students that were contracted because we couldn't handle them. We pay the per pupil costs and then we receive 90 percent reimbursement. Preschool handicapped came along at 100 percent reimbursement, and actually that lasted through my career at 100 percent. But things have changed. Budget issues arose for the state, for the department, for everything else, so sometimes we get creative. And now we're saying, well, the federal government is now providing IDEA money, which is Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Therefore, if we count that towards the 90 percent, we save some state dollars. State funding actually for school-age programs this past year has been more like 62 percent, 62 percent reimbursement to the schools. And then it will be qualified by saying, but you can use IDEA money to bring that up. It doesn't work that way necessarily. When you're a suburban school or a school that has an excellent special education program, you draw people there. That's the only place that some parents can get services, so they move to where they can have the best service