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especially in some of your larger districts that have a lot of it, and even some of the other smaller rural districts when the...actually would be a higher percentage of students receiving special ed. As Senator Kopplin talked about when he first got into administration for special ed, I was on the school board back then, too, and we were reimbursed nearly 90-some percent, whatever the figure was, of our special ed funding. And now, why, we're down to 73 percent of it. I realize that special ed funding has increased considerably over the years, but this was something that was mandated by the state that had to be done. And personally, I think the state should really fund nearly all of it. I don't know as a local district should even have to come up with the 27 percent like they have been. I think it should be funded more on a state level. This was a state mandated program years ago and I think the 5 percent is the least that can be done now. This certainly will impact or help on the property taxes, and property taxes in support of schools in your rural areas is something that's actually, what would you say, eating our lunch out there from...and it's mostly support of our school systems. Many of the schools have high enough valuations out there that they receive very little state aid other than what they get through special education. So this is something that will help all school districts because of the percentage because it usually doesn't have as much effect on the needs as what your other state aid does. So I certainly support this amendment. Whether you do it now or on Select File wouldn't make any difference as far as I'm concerned. I would vote for it whenever it comes up. So thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. Senator Stuhr, on the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, am supportive of this amendment, I think, for many of the reasons that have been already stated by rural senators in regards to the property tax issue, and that it is helpful to all schools. Whether we are going to be able to look at the total 5 percent I think that is something that we can further negotiate. But I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee at least came up with the 3 percent, because I think that is very, very helpful. With that, I give the rest of my