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Senator Raikes for his forward thinking and his leadership on this very important issue. And I will return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I also want to thank Senator Raikes for his interest in increasing the special education funding to school districts across the state, and that's what initially brought me to the amendment that was discussed on General File before it was pulled. There is a great need across the state to provide additional funding to school districts to supplement the efforts of special education programs, especially in school districts that become magnets for special education students. Grand Island is a magnet. North Platte is a magnet. Valentine, to a degree, is a magnet. And Norfolk has become a magnet for special education. People now are moving to the district to receive these services. And increasing the funding for special education in the end helps school districts avoid raising property taxes or using property tax dollars to pick up the bill. In Norfolk, that's well over \$1.5 million. What I'm learning more about is this early childhood development, and it sounds like there's a lot of value to the program. Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Raikes a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield? Senator Raikes, a question from Senator Flood, please.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR FLOOD: Senator Raikes, the special education funding would be considered in our budget, would reduce the amount of our projected deficit in two years. Is that the way I read that?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. Yes.

SENATOR FLOOD: Now this early childhood development funding, that would not reduce the deficit in two years.