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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR STUHR: Yes. Yes, they may.

SENATOR MINES: And I'm curious if...well, if we take that premise, you're going to have Omaha, Lincoln, and large schools competing with the Ellsworths of the world, and the funds will be administered through the Department of Education. Is there...my perception would be that large schools have the capacity to secure grant funds more efficiently than small schools. Would that be fair?

SENATOR STUHR: I think that they will certainly look...and that has been...and that's important to bring out in the floor debate, is that these grants be distributed evenly across the state, so that there are grants that are going to all different sizes of schools and across the state.

SENATOR MINES: But the language doesn't state that grants can't be given to the same school. One school every year could apply for and receive up to \$75,000 in grant funds. And I'll pick on Omaha Westside. Every year they could make a grant application that would outshine most small schools, for \$75,000 for a different program every year, and they could, in fact, receive that grant funding; is that right?

SENATOR STUHR: What it says is no applicant shall receive funding for more than one project at a time, and they shall have two years to expend the grant funds. So if we need some clarification, it certainly is not the intent.

SENATOR MINES: I think we might, and I'm not picking on Westside or any large schools. I'm simply saying that in my way of thinking, large schools can make application, a much better application, than small schools, and could do it on a continuing basis, and schools in smaller districts may not receive it. The other question or concern I might have, \$450,000 would allow roughly six grants a year, and that doesn't touch very many people. Had you thought about any more funding?

SENATOR STUHR: Well, yes, we have thought about more funding (laugh), and it would be wonderful. One of the things that we