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Attracting to Excellence...Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program. In the original draft of the bill, I...we eliminated that program and the funding for that program. That was kindly brought to my attention by Senator Thompson, who was very instrumental in working on this program and seeing that it got into statute. So in recognition of that, she and I have come to an agreement about how we could jointly fund both the distance education effort and the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program. This amendment spells out exactly that arrangement. Roughly speaking, I think the funding for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program begins at a \$250,000 level, goes to \$500,000 the second year, \$750,000 the third year, \$1 million per year after that. The rest of the...of lottery funding goes to the...or, most of the rest of; I shouldn't say "the rest of"...about \$3 million of lottery funding goes to the distance education program. In the year 2015-16, I believe it is, both programs end. The Legislature at that point would need to make another decision as to how this lottery money is to be used. So that's the essence of the program. I would be happy to yield some of the time I have to Senator Thompson, if she would like it, to remind you about, perhaps, the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program, or whatever other issues she might have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Thompson, would you like to use some of the opening?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Sure. I just want to indicate my support for this amendment. We've worked out a compromise which I think works well for both of the goals of the Legislature--the one from previous years that we passed for a loan forgiveness program for teachers, and also for the distance education. So I ask your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson and Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on AM2721. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion of the Raikes amendment, AM2721. Senator Fischer and others.

SENATOR FISCHER: Mr. President and members, thank you. If Senator Raikes would yield to some questions, I'd appreciate it.