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SENATOR RAIKES: There's a maximum amount per year that any one applicant or teacher could receive, and then there's a certain requirement, and I don't have those details right in front of me here, in terms of how long you have to teach in order to have the loan forgiven. But the basic idea is that there's a capped amount that you can receive as a loan to support your training as a teacher. If, in fact, you do then get your training and teach in the state, that...for a certain amount of time, that loan is forgiven. You're not required to pay it back.

SENATOR FISCHER: And why do we see an increase? The first year, there's \$250,000 that goes to that fund; then it goes to \$500,000, then \$750,000, and then it goes up to \$1 million to forgive these loans. And I believe it's...correct me if I'm wrong, but any teacher in the state can qualify if they teach in those specific subject areas, and it doesn't matter whether they teach in a public or a private school. Is that correct?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, that's correct. Now, when you say "any teacher," that may be just a shade broad. I'm not sure the...you know, if you regarded a person who is doing a home school offering as a teacher, I doubt they would qualify. But...

SENATOR FISCHER: But how...

SENATOR RAIKES: ...I think any accredited school, certainly, a teacher in any accredited school would be eligible.

SENATOR FISCHER: Why do the funds increase up to \$1 million?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, I...

SENATOR FISCHER: And do you believe that's sustainable? My concern here is that we're taking money away from what I see as the focus of this bill for distance education and distance learning to forgive teacher loans.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well,...and I won't argue with you that certainly there's a split in the funding. But in terms of how the requirements of the two programs mesh, it does make sense in