

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

learning community needs to establish educational opportunities for the students. I certainly wouldn't argue with you that we need to take a hard look at this, because Senator Howard is absolutely right--property tax concerns are very important concerns of citizens. I would absolutely suggest to her that I would work with her between now and Select File on this problem. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Further discussion? Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm trying to sift through the details of this, and certainly I am intrigued by the idea of removing the property tax increase, I think is fair to say. That seems to be a highest common denominator, in terms of property tax among the learning community, rather than the lowest common denominator, or just that local option. And I guess this speaks to the larger issue of property taxes in general, state aid, and the movement that seems to say, we realize...we want more money for education, but it has to come from somewhere, and we have to be very careful. I know that state aid to schools goes up every year and we all hear about it not being enough, but the fact is it has been increasing significantly over the years, and property taxes have gone up, as well. And we have to ask ourselves the question, when is enough enough? So I'll continue to listen, but certainly I am intrigued by the idea of removing the property tax component increase to the amendment and subsequently the bill, as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion? Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Pahls.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. I'm going to have to speak in a couple different ways, I guess. I certainly support Senator Howard in bringing up the point that the learning community, by going to \$1.10 cap, is certainly a property tax increase, one that we should be concerned of. I'd also like to remind you that we just passed an income tax reduction at the cost, or at the price of giving up a planned drop in property tax, so I don't know how important it is. But