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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. Could I ask Senator Raikes a question?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Raikes?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Raikes, I'd like to ask the \$64 million question, maybe \$100 million question. Why not give everyone the right to the \$1.10? Instead of going down, why not go up for everybody?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I...one way to answer that, Senator, is that if you look at how we rank as a state compared to other states--and I know in many contexts I reject the comparison of Nebraska to other states--but if you do that comparison, Nebraska is a state that is very high currently in property tax support of school districts as compared to state support of school districts. So I don't think it's wise for us in this particular situation to even exaggerate that high ranking that we have.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. It isn't that I don't know the issues. I just wanted a discussion. I mean there's increasing pressure from school districts to have an increased access to levies and expenditures. And I just wonder...then can I ask also, what will the implication be for state aid to schools under where we're headed from the state standpoint?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's the other part I should have mentioned, because in this proposal there would be additional state aid to schools. And it certainly would impact schools in the metro area, but it would also impact schools throughout the state. The total additional obligation in state aid beginning in the 2008-2009 school year as we now have it proposed would be about \$24 million.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Statewide.