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April 11, 2006 LB 1024A, 1024

SENATOR BOURNE: Yeah, please. I'm just curious.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Transportation costs are currently, as you know, an allowance in the state aid formula. So they're currently paid for, in the case of an equalized district, through state aid. There's two reasons that they're not in the A bill, and one of them is that this proposal would not begin until 2008/2009. The other reason is that they're already accounted for in our current financing arrangements for school district. It is possible, to the extent that you were successful in the learning community in moving students between buildings and to other attendance areas, that there would be more transportation costs. The way the bill addresses that is that the district receiving the student pays the transportation and then is reimbursed through the state aid formula.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, so...and that's my understanding as well. But where is that reflected then in the A bill, those increased costs?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, this A bill is for the current biennium. The 2008/2009 school year would not be in that biennium.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, but is...do we have a handle on what the ultimate increase in costs is going to be because of this, because of LB 1024?

SENATOR RAIKES: We do and I would tell you the biggest component of that is the state aid, the equalization aid impact which is, as you remember, about \$24 million which again would be the impact in the 2008/2009 school year. The major part of that is to address the issue of supporting educational efforts for poverty kids in small-sized classes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, let me ask you about teacher salaries.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: If they're...right now, if there's a...say the Omaha Public Schools has a dispute regarding the teacher