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issue, and I do think that we ought to discuss the contents of AM0880, which is the amended version, as I said, of LB 812, and make a decision as to how we think we should measure the progress of the children in our K-12 system against the standards that have been established by the State Department of Education. As has been indicated by others, the original proposal was for the various systems within the state to establish their own...their own standards and then measure their progress toward their own standards, which was something I absolutely could not and have never been able to grasp as to having any type of harvest of valuable information at the end of that. But I do think we should talk about it. I would encourage the members of the body to suspend the rules and talk about the issues that are included in AM0880. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Stuhr.

**SENATOR STUHR:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I, too, rise in support of suspending the rules. I think there are a couple points that I'd like to emphasize that I believe that we need to remember in this entire discussion, and that is, number one, that the standards are not mandated. We're very much a local control state, where many of these decisions we have been told by our constituents that we want them to be made locally. Standards are not mandated and, number two, I think it's inconsistent then to think that we would require one statewide test when we do...and we have not mandated the standards. I believe that, and most of us would agree, that Nebraska has done very well in...nationally rating, that we excel also in our ACT tests, we do very well, our students do well, they are prepared very well. And I think it is important that we have this discussion, and I would urge you all to vote for suspending the rules. Thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Raikes.

**SENATOR RAIKES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise also to support the motion to suspend the rules. The points I would emphasize have already been made. Testing is a very important issue. It's also very technical, and it's important to do a good job at it. I think that the