

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

January 25, 2001 LB 313

millions of dollars. And in saying that, a number of those schools, 2000-2001, a matter of fact, 2000-2001 is probably for quite a number of those schools the last year of incentive payments under their...under their merger plan. So you have to consider that schools enter in on a three-year...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...have three-year division and they drop off each year, and if you add on, you add on. It's not predictable. The 2 percent, by the way, was a suggestion from...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...those who work in this area.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. We're debating the AM0112, Beutler amendment to LB 313. Those wishing to speak on the amendment are Senators Kremer, Landis, Beutler, Stuhr, Bromm and Janssen. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I will not take my full time and I think probably everything has been said once, and maybe we should go on and vote on this but I, too, would oppose the amendment. In the last couple of years I've heard so many times that we have too many school districts. And there has been all kinds of suggestions. I think there is one bill this year to only have one district per county. So the goal has been to consolidate schools, to get some of the smaller schools to be more efficient, to save money in the long run. So I ask, is our goal the same today as it was then? And I think it is, and there is two ways we can do it. We could force schools to consolidate. If we would force it and try to decide who was going to consolidate, and how it was going to be done, I think we'd see a lot of chaos and a lot of unhappy people. And the other way to do it is to put out incentives for people to do it, and many of these schools have spent a couple of years deciding what was the best for their kids and how they could educate them the best. Out of the top six here that have already done it in '99 and 2000, three of them are from my district. And you go on down, there is two others from my