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April 2, 2001 LB 740

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Lessons that are taught to students, depending on the program, include using eye messages, using act of listening, stating one's own interests or asking for action. And those can be taught to school yard...I'm sorry, elementary school children. Other programs involve infusing conflict management into the classroom curriculum so that as part of what we teach in school we would teach conflict and its origins and where it comes from and how it can be dealt with. In other cases, it may be teaching students to become peer mediators themselves so that the students who are in...experience difficulty can go to peer mediators. As a sidebar, let me tell you that among the most successful peer mediators are students who themselves have some history of being in trouble with the school, that when they are brought into the peer mediation program, they have credibility that the stereotypically student, council-perfect student doesn't have, and in fact,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...one of the spin-offs is that peer mediation students themselves start to improve as students. My light's on. I'll come back to the topic as soon as I can.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. You've heard the opening on LB 740. Open for discussion. The following lights that are on, Senators Suttle, Chambers, Landis, Raikes. Senator Suttle, you're recognized.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I...I rise to reluctantly oppose this bill only because, first of all, it costs \$250,000 for the next two years, and it's...and it's telling, even though it is enabling and voluntary, it's also telling school districts that they must do something else, that they are...they may already have some kind of mediation in...in place. There are many things that schools have to do, and I am bas...it's very hard for me, I'm in a terrible position because I basically support the idea of mediation. I think it's a good idea. I don't know that we should put another burden on the schools, we're already doing so