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much with the schools, and am making them do so many things, and not providing any assistance. This would...this would provide some assistance but I don't know whether we want to spend a quarter of a million dollars a year on this. I understand where Senator Landis is coming from, and I understand that he...he wants to do something to help with the violence that is in schools. It's a dangerous thing that kids are now...have the ability, more than half in the latest statistics, are saying that they could access a gun any time they wanted to. That's a rather frightening statistic and I heard that this morning. There has to be a way that this could be helped, but a quarter of a million dollars seems a bit much, and for that reason, I can't support this bill at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Chambers, on advancement of LB 740.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, knowing Senator Landis' unwillingness to answer questions, I'm just going to go after this bill without any questions but declarations. I'm opposed to it. We killed off Senator Stuhr's bill because in the minds of a lot of us it was money for something that the schools ought to be doing anyway. I am adamantly opposed to all of these bills coming in here which are excusing schools from doing what their job is and then telling them if you don't do your job, which you're being paid to do, we're going to come up with a special state program to give you some money. I heard Senator Landis say he's not involved in mediation where he would get money or something, but if you look on page 4, you'll see that the ESU is required to document that they're working with a mediation center. This is a job creation bill for mediation centers. If you look on page 4 in lines 1 and 2, that service unit shall include documentation which demonstrates collaboration with a mediation center. Then if you come down to line 11 in (3) where we're talking about the school districts, they also are required to show that they're dealing with a mediation center. Now why are we going to mandate as a state business for these mediation centers, especially when what is being done is what the schools ought to do anyway. If you look further at the makeup or layout of the bill itself, you will see that school districts and ESUs are not treated equally.