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FLOOR DEBATE

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to door, people thanked me. I didn't understand why they'd say, we really appreciate that you'd stand up and do this. But being down here for LB 126 and now this, I certainly understand why the average person is disillusioned with the process. I'm not a politician, practicing or otherwise. I'm an individual that came down here to do the very best job I could, to stay at it as long as it took, to say we're going too fast when I think we're rushing to a decision, to not be persuaded to do something that I didn't believe would have positive benefits. I've been very disillusioned by people that I wanted to believe in here, people in leadership that I saw doing things that didn't appear to be according to protocol or taking the time on issues that issues deserve. But on the other side of that, I've seen people step forward. I've seen senators come forward who paid the price last year with LB 126 and said we're not going to let it happen to you because it's the wrong thing. And I'll tell you what, that restores a lot of faith for me. There are people here who want to do the right thing. I want to believe it's a majority of the people here who want to do the right thing. This is a big issue and impacts so many people. And Senator Flood is absolutely right. No district is removed from this. No district is going to be exempt. And I'll leave you with this last thought: I truly believe in separation of power. Voters in District 9, my constituents, didn't vote for me and elect me to this office to tell me to come down here and work for anybody but them. I don't stand here to carry the water for the Governor. I don't stand here to carry the water for the lobbyists. I was elected by people in the state of Nebraska. I'll stay here, I'll do their work for as long as it takes, and I won't vote to suspend the rules. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm going to support the rules suspension. But while I haven't talked all day on this thing and this is the first time I've mentioned anything or gotten on the microphone, I would like to refresh your memory a little bit of history. Last year we went through something similar just like this. We literally destroyed the Class VI system in Nebraska. It's a thing of the past. And there was a lot of people and some of the school