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LB 1001

they have been going to school for two years already in a district because they're either in the first grade or they're in kindergarten. And I think one of the goals that we have in choice is to keep families together and to try to have the family work as a unit, especially as to how their children attend school. And this would simply allow this to happen. There are very few students in the state that would qualify for this. And my understand is even Lincoln and Omaha, even with the restrictions that they have on choice because of growth, are not opposed to this amendment because it does allow the family to stay together and it would allow the siblings to attend the...to all attend the same school district. So, with that, I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members, Senator Baack, would you just answer a quick question for me?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: This just came to my mind as you were talking. I know that you and I have talked that the choice bill has worked good or bad, I guess, even beyond your original expectations, right?

SPEAKER BAACK: That's correct.

SENATOR CROSBY: And you feel like it is working well.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, I do.

SENATOR CROSBY: But there are more requests than you thought there would be.

SPEAKER BAACK: Well, not really. I was actually anticipating all along that we would be shooting for about 1 percent of the student population and we're barely over that now.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay. But what are some of the reasons, I mean, I guess I'm interested since a family...since a student goes...an older student goes why is it important? I mean, is it...what are the reasons that some of them are asking to go to the other school? I guess that's what I want to know.