

April 8, 1992

LB 719  
LR 429

those school districts that would lose money, one of those, of course, being the Omaha Public Schools, which is why I've offered the amendment. If we're interested in keeping things, some of these school districts that Senator Lamb has referred to, in holding them harmless from those reductions in state aid I think it's important that we, even through this adjustment, that we continue to protect them. OPS does not have that protection out there from the way I understand it and I'm certainly no expert in this area, but looking at the figures it looks that OPS stands to lose \$300,000 even though OPS's growth in the number of students is roughly equivalent to that number of students that Lincoln has, yet Lincoln stands to gain and OPS stands to lose and, to me, that doesn't make sense. If there's going to be an increase in the number of students of roughly the same amount, it would make sense that at least OPS ought to stay where it is rather than be going backwards from where they were to get the same...to get...when it has to instruct the same number of additional students that other school districts in the state have to do. I'd urge that the amendment be considered and if you have questions, I'll probably defer them so you might ask somebody who knows more about the issue.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Lindsay. While the Legislature's in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign Legislative Resolution 429. Senator Warner.

**SENATOR WARNER:** Mr. President, I'd rise to oppose the amendment. As I understand the situation of the amendment that was previously adopted on growth factors that did apply to OPS and they did...would qualify, but because there is a...and, incidentally, that handout is not next year's numbers, that's this year's numbers. Had this amendment been in effect, next year's numbers will obviously be different for every school because of the multiple factor or formula that distributes the money. But because there was an overall reduction in aid using '91-92 school year, and by allowing some school districts based on need of new count, they would receive additional money, Omaha received additional money too. It just so happens, because of how the formula works, that the net benefit of the...using the increased number and the lesser amount of funds distributed in total that they come out with less than they had before, but it isn't because they didn't qualify, as I understand it, from the fact that they had increased in enrollment. It just happens that it works out that way. But the real issue is in the Lamb