

have a letter and I think it was presented at the hearing from a superintendent who alludes to the fact that when they tried to consolidate and they found out how much money it was going to cost them in loss in state funds they obviously immediately decided it wasn't a very good idea. I think that there are some districts who would like to consolidate, as I said before, but again I don't think that it's going to work for everybody. There are certainly reasons, distance and other things, that make it sometimes very difficult. But I think that if we see an advantage, if they can see an advantage, certainly it will put a different light on the thing, on the whole issue. I believe that if something is in the best interest of the people, you take away the disincentives that have actually been there for anybody trying to merge or consolidate in the past number of years, I think in many cases the people will take action on their own because they think it's in their best interest and not because somebody told them that that's what they had to do. So with that idea, I support the idea of the bill that Senator Bohlke has put together and will support it. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Janssen, your light is next.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. President, members, on the bill as we discussed it and in my district I have some Class I's now that are trying to merge and go into a, make it a Class III school within a Class VI or change a Class VI to a Class III. They have been meeting for quite some time and always this question would come up that we are going to lose some of the state aid by merging. And you have to remember that even though this is going to be over a three year period, if they don't do it it's going to be there until someone forces them to do it and as Senator Vrtiska said with the hammer and the fly swatter, it's easier to lead a fly to sugar rather than vinegar and in this case, this is going to help these Class I's considerably. And you have to remember, you have to remember, if you don't do it, that money is still going to be going out to those Class I's. If we do do it, it's going to go away in three years and it will add more monies to the Equalization Fund and it also would give them a little time to do some things as, such as new facility construction and so on without losing this money all at once. Even that will not go towards it, it also gives them time to get their RIFF policies in order and start the reduction in force which we know that it's probably one of the biggest things in controlling the spending in any school are the staffs that are