

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

SENATOR HARTNETT: Oh, you do?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That would remove that mandate for schools to provide that.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But you didn't put it in...you didn't think it...

SENATOR BOHLKE: It is not...oh, yes, but it's, you know, this is General File, Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Oh, okay, all right. Maybe I can get my ESU in there, huh? (Laughter) Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I rise in support of this section of the amendment and I want to just give one example of why in many cases where we have encouraged schools to look to consolidate and to try to provide a broader base and higher quality education, by doing that the system that we currently had with an average transportation cost did not allow for the district that all of a sudden went from one community to four communities, ten, fifteen miles apart in many cases, to adequately address the cost that they now had incurred to transport those students. I think looking at this as a cost rather than an average cost for a certain size district makes a lot of sense. It looks at not only the issue in terms of what we're doing in trying to encourage those consolidations, but I think also it looks at what a district with a certain number of students providing good quality classes is able to do and where they put their resources. The other issue I wanted to address, because Senator Wickersham mentioned it, is related to special education. Not an issue we are talking about this session, but certainly as the Accountability Commission and those groups are looking to find ways to better address the actual costs of special education and find ways to reduce those costs, looking at the average special education cost within the tier may, in fact, be one of the proposals that we see next, next session in whatever the legislation introduced looks like. But certainly, I think, looking to try to find a better way to identify costs, to know why in one district we have a high special education cost and in another we have a low