

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

cost compared to the average will be a very similar discussion to the one we're having today on transportation. I thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bernard-Stevens. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR CROSBY: Debate does cease. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to close on this section.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam President and members. As I've said, this is a little shorter discussion than the last two. I just want to respond to one point made by Senator Abboud when he said a state agency should be able to provide those numbers and that they just don't want to. That simply is not true. They don't care. They aren't going down and right. They aren't voting on this bill. They have two people who work on this. They just got the request a matter of days ago, and as I've said, there are other senators with requests in ahead of time, so their...their hands are really tied. And I hope that you will support this amendment. And I give the remainder of my closing time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. I just wanted to use this time, and I will take maybe a minute, just to, to me it was something humorous that happened in the Education Committee, or just on the topic in general. The Chair of the Education Committee on transportation actually introduced a bill with Senator McKenzie that would have eliminated all mandates on transportation and left it totally up to the school district to do whatever they wish to do. They could contract out, they could do whatever they wanted to do, and that's fine. And I remembered a couple years ago, and I wonder if the members of the body remember this as well. There was a day, it was called "Get Rid of Unfunded Mandate Day" and every school district and every town and every county commission, they all had press releases saying, we don't want unfunded mandates. Interestingly enough, when we put the bill that took away a big