

get down, in an individual district, to efficiencies greater than 5 or 10 percent. I mean we know that's not going to happen and it is not fair to ask more than a 5 or 10 percent reduction. To get the rest of the way down, to the 20 or 25 or even 30 percent that it is in other districts, especially in the rural districts, there is going to have to be some consolidation. There is no other way we are going to do this, unless we are going to pour massive amounts of sales and income tax money, and expand the tax base, do all of those things. And so, if, in effect, efficiency is what we really need out of the school system, then I think we need to do something a little bit more, a little bit more direct than to say to the school district nothing at all about consolidation. And we are saying to them less than we are saying to the counties, under the current bill, even though they need it. That system needs it more than the county system does, although, in my opinion, they both need it. So it seems to me perfectly logical, in the first instance, and perfectly necessary, in the second instance, and perfectly fitting, in terms of what this overall package is trying to do, to put in here this amendment that says, school districts, you, too, will look seriously at consolidation to the extent of holding a public hearing and doing a fiscal estimate of possible property tax savings. That's all the amendment does, and I certainly hope this one meets with your approval. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Let me introduce the doctor of the day, doctor of the day lives in Gretna, in Senator Avery's district. He is Don Frey, teacher at the Univers...Creighton University School of Medicine. Dr. Frey, will you please be recognized. On the Beutler amendment, Senator Wickersham, followed by Senators Warner, Bohlke, Kristensen, Wesely, and Pirsch.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. Speaker, members, I am going to rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment. LB 1085, as it stands before you, is, essentially, a bill that deals with counties. It provides mechanisms for counties to consolidate and to merge, either in whole or in part, and it provides mechanisms for joint officers that would serve more than one county. It provides for merging or consolidation of functions within counties, if there is specific activities that they want to carry out together. It provides a new mechanism for the county clerk to provide information to taxpayers within the