

believe that we, in the Legislature, are willing to impose many, many requirements and constraints on others that we don't seem to be willing to apply to ourselves. And I...we are asking people, through all of this legislation, LB 1050, the property tax measures that we are dealing with today, we are asking them to absorb an awful lot in terms of changes in the next...some of the changes will occur within the next few months, and some will be on down the line, two or three years. Now I agree with the people that have said that any responsible school board member is going to look at all of the options for that particular district, whether it be sharing administrators, whether it be looking at different ways of providing some of the higher level classes, whether it be by satellite connection, if that is more economical, sharing a teacher who is able to teach the high level math class or a special English class or a foreign language, or whether it be looking at merging districts. I really believe that any responsible school board member is going to look at everything, not just consolidation, but many other measures as well. And I think, number one, putting this amendment in the bill as a mandate grates on the people that we are dealing with even more, and I don't think we need to do that. And, secondly, I think it maybe sends a message that we think the only way to save money is by looking at consolidation and merger, and that is simply not true. It is not...it is not the little districts that exist in my district that have some of the elaborate facilities and programs that I see in the more populous areas, and we don't have the swimming pools. We don't have...we don't have fourteen basketball courts. We try to get by with one, and rent the armory from time to time, or rent the civic center from time to time, and we have boys and girls sports, and so on and so forth. The money to be saved is not all to be garnered through mergers or consolidations, but by each operation looking at what they are offering in terms of programming, and their priorities, and that's probably as important or more important. I have yet to see reliable data that applies in every case, that where you have a larger school, you have a more efficient operation. And I don't think that...that data exists because I don't think that you can show that in every case. It is a case-by-case situation. So perhaps we should mandate that every school look at whether or not...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...they should have a swimming pool, or whether