

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 144

time, those have been eliminated. Now there are some groups who are critical of the reading prompt, saying that that causes children to use critical thinking. I will leave it to you, if you think that's objectionable in our public schools. I...I hope we have a good discussion on the philosophy of assessment. I hope we don't get so far off on a small part, the NAEP, that we don't discuss which is the most important part of this bill, the direction that the Department of Education wishes to go. We will be leading the country. We will be the only state going in this direction. No other state is doing it. But I think that the schools have said that they prefer this method. It provides for the training of the teachers and the funds necessary for them to develop their own tests. My...my greatest concerns were satisfied with the report card. I met with the Education Committee this morning saying, you know, there are some people I know they've let your offices know, objecting to NAEP. The committee said, you know, if this is the only single test we're going to have, if we've gone away...every other direction and this takes away the fear of single school districts being pointed out as to how they are doing, but lets us know, as a state, how we're doing, compared to others, and we're providing the funding, we still feel we should recommend to the body that this be included in the bill. We welcome the discussion from you. We welcome the communication you've received to see if...if you think this is very objectionable. A large majority of states use the NAEP test. At one time, when they were talking about a national test for schools, they were going to use the NAEP test. It's recognized as probably the best assessment tool out there.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: But, as I said, we don't plan to die on this hill. But, if you want to raise what would be valid points, we're certainly willing to look at it. If we're going to raise issues that we want to not have our students using critical thinking skills, I think then we can have a debate in that area that we can...certainly deserves discussion as well. In the end, our final recommendation is to go with the plan of the Department of Education that allows for the multiple testing at the local level, certainly a great deal of local control, that with a report card for the accountability piece, and with the