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LB 144

SENATOR TYSON: ...the children. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Further discussion on the Bohlke amendment to LB 144, Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Schimek, Chambers, Dierks, and Hartnett.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I would like to support the amendment, which I guess I think of in terms of it being an intelligent pause. As I understand what is happening, the statute that we have in place, that says that there will be one test, is not displaced or amended in any way, but remains in our statutes. And so that continues to be the legislative directive. What we are doing with this amendment, as I understand it, is giving the school districts and the teachers and everybody involved an opportunity to look closely at an alternative to that, the alternative that's been suggested by the State Board of Education of some kind of system that involves something other than one test, the development of multiple tests that encompasses or includes all of those problems that were described so...so...in such detail by Senator Bohlke, earlier. I am confident that, when administrators and teachers and all involved look at this, that they're going to overcome whatever hesitancy they may have about being compared, and go to what is the most intelligent, and in the end the only acceptable way of assessing this whole system, and that is to have one test, one test that's well done, one test that's fair, one test that addresses all of the state standards. To have no assessment at all would be a total disaster and the end of all real reform that we've attempted in the last few years, because the standards themselves are not mandated. Without a uniform assessment, things can go off in a thousand different directions and reform will be totally, totally lost. In my mind the result would not be much different if you let it go to multiple tests. And I wanted to ask Senator Bohlke a couple of questions about the report card, and have a little dialogue on that in that regard.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BEUTLER: This thing that's called a report card, there's been a sample of it drawn up by the Department of Education, and it has a bunch of school profile information on