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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Chambers, you're next. And this will be your next...your last time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm not going to ask any of my colleagues questions on the mike, but if everything that is envisioned in this study is going to be accomplished by some of the schools on their own, how can this study harm anything? The problem is that these school systems in Nebraska kind of lurch and jerk along at their own pace depending on what the whim in that given area happens to be. So there is no across-the-board advancement of education in this state with respect to anything. The area where there seems to be most discussion by all these districts at the same time is when they are talking about how much money we're going to get, how much property tax will have to be derived to help support the local school system. But when it comes to things like curriculum, quality of education, competency of teachers, different people want to say let that be a local concern. Then let the providing of an education be a local concern. The state cannot be in a position of being responsible only for giving the money, and then saying once you got it, do anything you want to with it. If the kids come up not knowing the difference between...well, they don't know "a" from "bullfrog" when it comes to seeing it spelled out. Then the state has failed, and we cannot leave it to these individual districts to set up these easy methodologies to make it seem like they are doing something which they are not. All rivers and most men are crooked because they follow the path of least resistance is an old, old maxim. When a bill comes before us that talks about testing, I want to be sure that each building is held accountable for what happens in that building, especially in Omaha where I live. I don't want these school districts, these school boards to be let off the hook by setting up disparate systems where they pour more money and effort into one part of the district and let the other go begging and neglected, and then say we just want to lump all these test scores together and come up with some kind of average to make it look like things are better than what they are. No, I want each building, I would like to see each classroom held accountable. We can talk in general terms, if we're dealing with medicine or anything else, about what the general treatment