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SENATOR CUDABACK: Your light is next, Senator Beutler, if you'd like to go ahead.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, members of the Legislature, I hope there is some interest in these matters because I really think you have a system being put in place that's not going to work and that, in fact, for the last month and a half, has been falling apart in front of your eyes. Let's review just for a minute what we started with, what you and I passed as a bill a couple of years ago. You may recall that there were two or three central ideas. One is that the State Board of Education would have enforceable state standards, okay, enforceable state standards. Two, that there would be a single test assessment and, three, that that single test assessment would be an assessment of how students measured against the state standards. One, two, and three. Then the State Department of Education came in with a bill, LB 812, that basically said with regard to one of those three items that we didn't want to have a single test; that we wanted to do something different; that every school district could have its own assessment, its own test. The several hundred school districts out there, I don't know how they're going to get it done, but they'll all have their own assessment and that's what the State Department of Education did with LB 812 as it backed away from a system that was at least coherent and together. But now consider the second major thing that has happened, and I hope you'll follow along in this discussion because the only pertinent provision left in LB 812 is Section 7, and Section 7 used to have a sentence that said: "The assessment and reporting system shall be aligned with the standards approved by the board." The assessment system would be aligned with the standards approved by the board. In other words, we were going to test the students against the state standard. That's what we had decided all along. But now that sentence has been stricken and we are no longer to test the students against the state standard. We're to test the students, I guess, against each and every school district's own standard. But, and this is why I bring you the amendment that's in front of you today, there is absolutely no requirement in statute or in regulation that each and every school district have its own standard. I want to read for you again from the regulation: There is no requirement for