

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR VRTISKA: First of all, Senator Beutler, it was just alluded to and it...refresh my memory a little. How do the kids normally score in Nebraska on these tests that we're now taking for entrance exams to colleges, normally, as compared to the other 48 states that you mentioned in this handout?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The college entrance tests, Senator? Like the ACT?

SENATOR VRTISKA: (inaudible) SAT and ACT and those types of tests that are given.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, the ACT is generally the one that's accepted as being more of a benchmark since a large number of our students take it, as opposed to the SAT and, generally, in Nebraska we score better than the national average. Is that important?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, it's important to the fact that I guess what I'm trying to figure out is, is this legislation that you're going to mandate make those kids smarter? Are they going to have to...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. Well...

SENATOR VRTISKA: I thought now they're already, those that take the tests obviously, are proving something. Is this going to make all the other kids smarter, and if they don't become smarter what happens to them?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The reason I asked you, Senator, was...whether it was important is because the ACT represents a single test, doesn't it,...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...comparing Nebraska students to students all the way across the country. And, ironically, when I went to talk to my Lincoln School Board the other day the first thing they told me was how well the Lincoln Public Schools are doing on the ACT as opposed to Nebraska Public Schools, and the two