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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that in fact this is 12 inches long. We just accept that. Well, maybe it is and maybe it isn't, but assume that it is. Anything we lay this beside we will know whether that thing is 12 inches long, longer than 12 inches, or shorter than 12 inches, but without this we can only approximate. And you'll be like the guy who was doing some work in a barbershop where I work. He started out, he needed a board this size. So he went over to the place that the board needed to be in and, as he walked, his hands came closer together. And he sawed the board and when it came back it didn't fit. He'd have done better to just take a piece of string or something. Well, what Senator Beutler says, we don't want the string philosophy or the stringless philosophy. We want to know what it is that we're measuring.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuhr, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I sometimes think that we've lost our focus today which is really to improve student learning and also to assess student achievement. In education, and I think probably some of you know I am a former teacher, that it seems as if you are constantly changing terminology. Today we're talking about standards. When I was teaching, we were talking about curriculum guidelines and, in whatever subject matter you taught, the state always issued curricular guidelines. You could follow those; those were guides much as what we are talking about today as standards. However, we've come about and standards have now become the new terminology that many states are looking for education reform in their states. And it has been mentioned the yellow sheet that I handed out earlier talked about what has happened to some of those states that mandated their standards and then also looked at mandating one test to test those standards and, as Senator Wehrbein mentioned from that yellow sheet, that there are a number of states that are now changing and looking at some of their results. In New York, there were 43 teachers actually from 32 different schools that