

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 27, 2000 LB 812

lowering of the test for the standards.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Stuhr, on the amendment, AM3092, to LB 812.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I will just say that I stand in opposition of the one test and support the multiple assessment or school-based testing. And I did want to share with you that I have three letters from the three major education organizations. NSEA, which states that they do support the multiple assessment of student achievement and the resources it takes to support staff development for the teachers who will develop those assessments and align the curriculum around the standards. I also have another letter from the Nebraska Association of School Boards that supports LB 812 as amended. They welcome accountability for student learning through a process that provides local control and I believe that's what the school-based assessment would do. And, furthermore, student progress and district performance could then be shared with the public annually in a report card form. Also another letter from the Nebraska Council of School Administrators representing 1,400 members of the Nebraska Council of School Administrators supporting the multiple test or the school-based assessment. Yes, I think the one test would probably be simpler. Yes, it would; but it isn't...does not mean that it would be better. I think our real focus should be on student achievement and student progress and not on school ranking, not that that's not important, but the main focus we're talking about should always be on the student and we must not forget that. I thought I would just review briefly what we are looking at now with the Bohlke amendment that schools will go ahead and, number one, continue with a standardized test that all of the schools are using right now which might be Iowa Basic or California Achievement test. It is up to them, but they do that and they can certainly do some measuring in that way. Also with the Bohlke amendment that we now have on the books, there would be a statewide writing test. And then, number three; we would have the school-based assessments and those would be on the other areas in the reading, the science, the social studies, history, and math. And right now teachers are being trained to do the school-based assessment according to the standards or the guidelines that