

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

April 3, 2000

LB 812

perspective, I feel a lot better about the compromises that have been worked out as explained to you by Senator Bohlke. And so I think I will stop at that point and see if there are additional questions or comments from people, and then I have one amendment to this amendment. We'll have a short conversation on that, just see what you all think, and we'll go one way or another on it without a whole lot of discussion, because I think we're in the ballpark, probably, of what most people would consider a reasonable compromise at this point. So with that, I'm going to stop and invite questions and comments. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Just a couple points that I'd like to emphasize in the bill that...or the amendment that will now become the bill is that we're still talking about multiple assessments, and I think that's the most important concept that we want to remember is that previously we were talking about one test. Let me just kind of run through a little bit about...we started this discussion last week. And schools will also be doing a standardized test, and that is...we have decided that would only probably recognize about 48 percent of the standards. And that's why we're talking about doing the school-based assessments, so that since we have been looking at schools adopting standards now, that when they do the school-based assessment on the standards, we'll get a complete picture of student progress. And I guess that's one issue that I really want to stress is that we're doing all of this to measure student progress and student achievement. That's our primary goal, I believe, in the Education Committee and everyone that's been working on this issue, is that schools want to look at students, they don't want to look at only one test and measure student achievement by one test, but look at multiple assessments. And I think that if you were asking parents, yes, I know that there have been some surveys done by newspapers and such on, you know, do you support one test. And then you turn that around and say, how about your children, you want them to take only one test? And they'll all say, no, we want really multiple assessments. So that's what we're kind of looking at this entire picture as having some multiple assessments. Right