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LB 868, 934

I think parents who are legally responsible for children should have some say in whether a child makes the decision to drop out of school at age 16. We have very few choices that we allow children at age 16 to make. Life-changing decisions are generally held to the legal age of responsibility in the state of Nebraska, and that is not 16. Fifteen other states require students to stay in school until they're 18; seven other states require them to stay until 17: California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. And if you've been reading the World-Herald, you would notice that even the city of Chicago, in their school district, the third-largest in the United States, has passed a mandatory requirement for students to stay unless they have a waiver signed by their parents. So I am going to close my opening at this time. There is a committee amendment. And I ask you to give your attention. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. Senator Raikes, as Chairman of the Education Committee, you're recognized to open on AM2598 to LB 868.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I want to give you kind of an overview of the bill as it is, including the committee amendment, and then beyond that, so that you...there's kind of a lot of things involved here, and so you can kind of get caught up as to how all this got put together. First, there were two bills introduced. LB 868 was introduced by Senator Redfield. She just gave the opening. And she designated that as her priority. LB 934 was introduced by Senator Stuhr. We heard both the bills and acted on both bills in the committee, so there are committee statements to include committee amendments available for both of those, that is, LB 934 and LB 868. In addition, I've handed you a bullet sheet, two-sided, which is AM2960. On one side it's highlighted kindergarten; on the other side in title it's highlighted high school. So if you'll follow along there, the committee amendment combines both the bills into LB 868. And I