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LB 868

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Janssen and members of the body. As I look at this amendment, I guess I would ask, are we doing enough, or perhaps are we doing too much, or are we doing anything? When you look at this kindergarten deal, you're moving it up about six weeks, and that's about all you're doing. When the part down there that you passed around that has the amendment, and it says the kindergarten side, and that one little circle there, and it says, the child demonstrates capability through a recognized assessment procedure, therein right there is your problem as far as children starting kindergarten too soon or someplace like that. I was on the school board for long enough, and usually somebody that wants to take a child instead of...to school instead of a baby-sitter, why, they run around and find somebody that will give them the right kind of test, and they come to the school board and the teacher and show them how well this child should test out, and they should therefore be in kindergarten. And so I think as long as that part is in there, you're always going to have a problem with people putting their children into kindergarten when they probably should be into day school or baby-sitter. So I would question whether you're helping anything on that matter. As far as moving it up to 1st of September from the 15th of October, I don't know. That probably helps a little bit in different places. But I...the other part that concerns about this amendment is when you get to the 18-year-olds on the other side of the paper. Right now, there's probably a lot of seniors in high school that are getting about 18 years old. In fact, when you get...the day that you turn 19, you can't be eligible in sports anymore. And I know there's some of these basketball players down here that when the final whistle blows down there on the basketball floor, I'm sure they're going to be 19 years old, or pretty close to it. This happens on a regular basis. So that part is probably...if the person wanted to stay in school till they were 18 or so, they probably would. The second question is, that I have, is, when you force these people to stay in school till they're 18, that is going to affect your state aid to education. That's how state aid to education is paid, on the average daily attendance. Now are you going to keep these people in school that don't want to be there just so you can continue to draw your state aid? Are some of these