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publicly and for the purposes of discussion here that I find particularly intriguing an effort that I think is well-intended relating to setting a date, as arbitrary as it might seem or need to be, of making sure that children are ready to enter kindergarten. And I have a concern that, especially with all-day kindergarten these days, that the public schools have become a place that's a lot less expensive than day care. And I want to be sensitive to that, not only from an academic standpoint but from an acad...or a monetary standpoint, too, a fiscal issue. And I'm a little worried that the bill is becoming heavy-laden with various issues, whether it is pick and choose who enters kindergarten or establishing some mandatory attendance issues that didn't exist before; that perhaps I can be convinced otherwise but I don't understand the full necessity to have some of this language and trying to exempt home schoolers. And I'm sorting through the language here and there seems to be some exemptions of exemptions of exemptions that I, myself, am trying to work through. So I apologize if I'm thinking out loud here. But I hope that we can work through this in a timely fashion because I certainly don't want to end up with something that's done in a hasty manner and we have some unintended consequences that would be visited on Select File or further down the line, hopefully definitely before something like this would pass. So I look forward to a good hearty discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Raikes, on the Stuhr amendment to the committee amendments to LB 868.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Let me try to recap a little bit, at least in terms of the end of the mandatory range, mandatory age range, if you will, or mandatory attendance at the kindergarten age range. The original objective here was to narrow the range of age groups, if you will, in the class really with the intent of better enabling an education. The difficulty currently encountered with a very wide range of ages is that you find, as an educator, that it's very difficult to pitch it correctly to include everyone, to not avoid leaving somebody behind. And I think it was agreed upon by those involved in teaching kindergarteners that a difficulty was with the very young children because they simply, although