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support of the bracket motion, and I rise in opposition to LB 1048. This issue is one that keeps coming back. Certainly it's been a while since it came up. But I speak as a representative of many constituents involved with Class I schools. And I also speak as a product of a Class I school. And because of my experience attending a Class I school, I hope to relay some positive things about the Class I schools. The underlying premise of my position is that students are happy, parents are happy, and the teachers in the Class I school districts seem to be happy. Why mess that up? We hear of some extreme circumstances that we've read about in the papers, of districts spending money without any students. That's not the fault of every single Class I school district across the state. If we need to address some situations in a more narrow format, let's do that. But I believe that it's inappropriate to swat at the fly with a sledgehammer, to use Senator Bourne's and others' characterization of such a broad approach in trying to get at a rather narrow situation. Class I schools exist across the state, and in fact across Scotts Bluff County, for different reasons--some on geography, some have been there a while. But when I was in grade school, there were, I believe, 11 Class I schools in Scotts Bluff County, and they're down to 6, already cut in half. In fact, you'll see a handout of mine pointing out, with the graph, enrollment in the top line, the number of teachers in the middle line, and the number of districts in the bottom line. Clearly, the only thing consistent on this graph is the reduction in the number of school districts over time. And if you went back further than 1952, you'd even find a steeper curve in the number of school districts diminishing over time. Yes, it's true that Class I students have some access to more opportunities than larger school districts. I think that's good, to provide those students with more opportunities. Westside district, K-12, has more opportunities than OPS, probably than Millard. Ralston, I would suggest, has more opportunities than surrounding districts. Where's the effort to combine those? And I cannot make an argument that Westside exists out of necessity, that those boundaries exist out of necessity, Senator Jensen. So if this is about efficiency and fairness, we can go after a lot of other points within our state policy with the effort of efficiency and fairness. I view LB 1048 as an attempt to bat down many success stories in an