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yesterday and today and tomorrow. Country schools, or Class I schools, have a fond memory for most of us. And many of us in this body were educated in a Class I school. I was not. I...my mother was educated in Class I school. I have...some of my best friends are Class I school graduates. But given that, that's a Norman Rockwell kind of attitude, to think, well, it worked for me and it was wonderful then. Frankly, kids, this is a new day. This is visionary legislation. This is tough legislation. But not to embrace at least the discussion and to try and bracket a bill before there is public debate I think serves us unwell, doesn't do much for our process. We need the debate. We need to discuss the pros and the cons. We need to understand the advantages and disadvantages, emotional advantages, fiscal advantages, and disadvantages as well. I do support the bill, oppose the bracket. And if Senator Raikes would like the remainder of my time, I would so yield.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Raikes, you have 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Mines. Let me read from you...there's been some comments about savings and so on. And I would urge you to take a look at the fiscal note. And I'll read one section of it to you. It says, assuming that no attendance sites are closed other than those currently serving less than 15 students, it is estimated that approximately \$3.9 million less will be spent by school districts. The calculation assumes these students can be absorbed into a new district with little, if any, increase in spending by the district. Based on 2001-02 data, there were 141 Class I school districts with less than 15 students. Forty-eight of the districts were in the standard cost grouping for state aid purposes. The calculation assumes the attendance sites in these districts will close pursuant to the bill. It is not as likely that the 93 former Class I districts in the sparse and very sparse cost groupings will have their attendance sites closed pursuant to this bill. But if that were to occur, then there may be an estimated additional \$6 million in reduced expenditures. It is also possible that attendance sites with greater than 15 students may be closed, but that depends upon decisions by local patrons. Any decrease in school spending