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SENATOR RAIKES: You're exactly right.

SENATOR KREMER: Yeah. Yeah. Then so I would...another question. I was wondering, since we took away the incentives to consolidate, has the rate of consolidation slowed down to show that the incentive money was a real instrument in getting them to consolidate? Do you know? Because we pulled that back just because we were short of funds, but that was General Fund money now and this would be lottery money now, if I understand.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah, I don't...I don't have a good handle on that, and it would be worth some...worth taking a look at. Again, we have anecdotal evidence that, for example, I know one of the systems that is in Senator Stuhr's district that did consolidate, Heartland, and they came to testify in our summer effort to the fact that it was critically important to them...

SENATOR KREMER: That they would do that.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...yeah, that they were...

SENATOR KREMER: Okay.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...able to do that. And of course, you know, one of the difficulties we have is...in the state, as you well know, we don't seem to get this done. Yes, you can do a merger, but then, you know, with declining enrollments and so on, well, then maybe another one is needed down the road. So that's another important reason to make sure that there's significant progress being made that you do, in fact, have 390 or something that is...has a chance to be viable for at least a number of years.

SENATOR KREMER: I would guess, and I think I have...and I won't even mention what school it is that has probably used some incentive money to consolidate once and they're probably looking at consolidating it again now and maybe use it over again, but I guess if it's an incentive for them to do something, that would be good, that I would support that. So I think it is very important that we do this, and I know when the funds were short