

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 13, 2005

considerate sometimes in order to, if an issue is very big, that we could at times set up a video teleconferencing, as well as just a telephone conferencing. So, with that, I'll return the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Smith, yours is the only light on. You may either speak or close on your amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you speaking or closing?

SENATOR SMITH: I'll close.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're closing. You're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: I appreciate the comments that have been offered today and certainly meets my objective of raising the awareness on this issue. I hope that you will keep in mind that we'll be having a hearing next week where I hope that it is the intent of soliciting broad-based feedback on what is supposedly a different proposal from before that involves schools. It involves schools of different sizes around the state. And I would hope that it is the intent to solicit feedback not only from parents, but from teachers, perhaps even students, but I...I'm not behind that or arranging that. But keep in mind that there's mileage and, when you come from a great enough distance, there's lodging and, if you want the input of a classroom teacher, there's substitute pay and time out of the classroom that has educational and academic implications as well. We have the opportunity to also utilize to a greater extent an infrastructure that we placed not only physically around the state, but statutorily we placed in Nebraska, and I believe it's underutilized. We have the opportunity to save funds in the long term. And I know that some of the numbers were expressed, and considerations for unlimited or these vast numbers, and I, you know, even though we have the ability to introduce a million bills here in the Legislature, it's never happened, or even several thousand. I mean, we approach the