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

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situation, particularly if you have a number of Class I schools, you're getting a tremendous amount of pressure. I don't think you're hearing from a lot of the other constituents you have that might have a different point of view. I started reaching out to people in my district, other than those people that were Class I's. And I don't mean just to school superintendents and school board members in larger districts, but to the average citizen, the people paying taxes. obviously, they did not have the volumes of statistics and facts that we have, but very overwhelmingly they were telling me, this is a change, Senator, that needs to be done and you need to have the political will to do it. I've had a problem for a long time, and it possibly could be a point of the whole option issue, but as I look at many of these school districts and I look at the school districts in my district, I see one of my school districts has 9 percent of the children that live in that district that are being educated in that schoolhouse; in another one, less than 43 percent of the kids that live in that district are being educated in the school district; in the other one, I have a real problem with the fact, are we 26 percent. allowing a privatization if you...in effect, of Class I school I'm very concerned about that, but I've come to a districts? conclusion. Many of those parents are not happy with my I respect them and I respect them for fighting as hard as they can because they believe in what they're doing. I think what...what the Education Committee, and not just But Senator Raikes, what the Education Committee has proposed in LB 126 is good public policy. Does one size fit all? Senator Louden, I don't think it does, and I haven't been able to figure out how we can tweak this to make it any different than do the assimilation piece where the school, the attendance center, does not have to be closed. The K through 12 board can make that decision not to, and if it's a transportation issue, if it's an issue that is just plain as the nose on you face, I think they'll make the right decision. And so please look past the politics, try to look at what's good policy,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...and make your decision accordingly. And I want to thank all of my colleagues who are standing up very