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strongly in support of their Class I school district, but look hard at the total situation. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. The issue before the body is advancement of LB 126 and a motion to amend that. On with discussion. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I know this issue has been discussed for the last several years. I know it's an emotional issue, and especially out in the rural areas. I just want to comment a little bit about...well, two or three things here. One, I believe that...and if you can go to a private school, you're going to get more attention. I realize that. I sent my children the first eight years to a private school, parochial school, in South Sioux City, Nebraska. In fact, I served on that school board. Was my choice with my dollars. And then they went on to public school. We have a great public school system in South Sioux City. I served on that school board for eight years, and at that point in time when I served on that school board we closed two Class I schools. We didn't assimilate them. We closed them because they were within a two-mile area, two miles from South Sioux City. It was just, actually, those particular schools were just little tax havens. Now, we had...we had some controversy there too, Senator Raikes. Fact that...and one of the school board...our superintendent, I said let's have it in our meeting room; we won't get so many people. We had it in the auditorium and it was packed, and it was very emotional. And the...but the thing is, we did it. It was the right thing to do then and it's the right thing to do yet today, and people have accepted that fact. And we do have a good...we do have a good school system. But as far as the Class I schools, in my district I only have one, so...and that was a miracle, really. It was three years ago we had a tornado came through Jackson, Nebraska. It wiped out the houses on the north side of the Catholic Church, hopped over the church, didn't do any damage, went over and destroyed a school, was built in 18...in the 1800s. My mother used to go there; my grandmother taught there. It is a Class I school. It wiped it out. No one was hurt. That's the first miracle. Second miracle, they got a new Class I school. How that happened I still haven't quite figured out, but they did. And