

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

February 10, 2005 LB 126

have this problem lingering for a while. That...another one of my opinions, this is going to be a fly in our ointment for 18 years. I'm dealing with a fly in our ointment in Urban Affairs right now. I'm kind of worried we're going to be dealing with that fly for another 18 years. I don't know if I...I don't know if we can solve the problem. Can we come to some sort of satisfactory conclusion? That's the question, and until we start asking the right question, I don't think we can. Let's take a hard, long look at this for the next however many days we have left.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR FRIEND: Time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Sorry about that. Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. My blood pressure has, I think, equalized. And hopefully I won't try to keep up with Senator Raikes and his blood pressure. But anyway, I want to have a good, productive discussion. And what I want to inject into this debate is quality education. Because I think that quality is missing from LB 126, and I think it's so far not been enough of the debate here this morning. There has been some criticism that Class I schools are like private schools, therefore we should get rid of the Class I schools. So what we are attempting to do is find the lowest common denominator, assuming that the issues and factors of a private school are better when it comes to class size and other factors. But when there's the notion that Class I schools are like private schools, therefore we should eliminate them, we are headed in the direction of the lowest common denominator. Now, that wouldn't be the first time in our education policy that we always look for the lowest common denominator. I think that's unfortunate. Because I think in spite of the fact that we've looked for the lowest common denominator in our policies, we