

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

February 10, 2005 LB 126

early sixties, or middle sixties. And it was not hard to do. So I hold up our District 44 in the southwest corner of the state, saying, here's an example. It works. We've done it. And we didn't complain. And I certainly don't know of anyone out in my area that says we ought to go back. The two Class I's I do have remaining out there are right close to McCook. There's one a couple miles south of McCook, and there's one, I don't know, four or five miles north of McCook. And I look at the printout Senator Raikes provided us, and it's typical of these other districts, have 14 students opting out and 3 opting in, a total fall membership of just 13 students. In all honesty, I can't defend that per-pupil cost, \$12,208. And I have talked to the superintendent, and I do know some of the board members out there. I think they're watching with interest what we do here. The other one of my two Class I districts out there is a couple miles south of McCook. And they have pretty much the same story. I'm sorry, but...and I'm sure people are going...who attend that, are going to let me know about this. But it's...to me, most of their...or a good part of their students are opted out of McCook into this Class I District 8 out there. The numbers bear it out again. They do have a lower per-pupil cost. I can't complain about that.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: But it's gotten to be a position...situation where students are opting out of these more...and I don't hardly call McCook a metropolitan area, but a larger school district out there. And there were 15 option students went into the district, for a net loss of overall...net option of 3. So I stand in support of Senator Raikes' bill. I think it's a good idea. And we need to go and get the rest of the state up to speed with southwest Nebraska. With that, I would return the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Langemeier and 12 others.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. About an hour and a half ago I pressed my light, and so now it's exciting to be here. And actually, when I had