

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

February 10, 2005 LB 126

be, the factors considered in LB 126, I can't help but think that...and especially when senators have stood up to say that, you know, we closed them a long time ago...and that's fine. That was a voluntary decision. I just want the constituents that I represent to have that same voluntary decision. I don't think that's a lot to ask. Senator Raikes, is that a lot to ask, for my constituents to have the voluntary decision of whether or not they lose their school board?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute. Is that a question, Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator...

SENATOR RAIKES: They absolutely would, Senator. This is just simply turning it over to the locally elected K-12 school board. We're not allowing one group of constituents and taxpayers to have a veto power over the rest. If this would be a locally supported decision...in effect, what you're saying, somehow, is that local residents are scared of the local school board. I don't understand that.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, Senator Raikes. And I appreciate that. Maybe it's the thousands of people across Nebraska who just don't understand LB 126. Maybe that's the case. But statistics will show you that the only way you can save dollars as it relates to education is if you close buildings or lay off personnel. Is that accurate?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry. Time is up, Senator. Thank you, Senator Langemeier and Senator Smith. Senator Heidemann, followed by Senator Beutler, Schrock, McDonald, Raikes, and others.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Mister...Senator Cudaback. This isn't the easiest thing for me. I was...as a freshman Senator, I was just going to sit back and learn the process this year. But LB 126 came up, and it prods me to become part of this discussion. Unlike some people, this isn't an emotional issue,