

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 11, 2005 LB 126

question the so-called savings of the fiscal note. Throughout this discussion, I've heard comments being spoken as though they were facts. As I said yesterday, I've stood behind the glass for over 20 years, listening with frustration to misinformation and perceptions regarding rural schools being put forward as facts on this floor. Again, I'm glad to have the opportunity to now be a member of this body and have the chance to rationally discuss this very important issue by offering facts. I currently have factual information which rebuts over 20 comments made thus far in this debate. I hope you will allow me the opportunity and the time to present these to you, in order that you can make an informed decision on this very important issue. Yesterday the discussion on this bill began saying that efficiencies can be found if we pass LB 126; that the Class I districts are not efficient in their operation. I see we've just received a handout from Senator Raikes and he has targeted two school districts with that handout. I assume...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...I assume that he will be addressing that. I didn't prepare information but, in conversations with Senator Raikes, my comeback on his argument has always been that there are Class III districts in this state that are not efficient. And I see that perhaps I'll need to gather information and target some of those Class III districts for their lack of efficiencies. When you look at the average per-pupil cost for all Nebraska students, it's at \$7,476.30. All Class I school students, that number is \$7,548.67. It costs just \$72.37 a year, less than 1 percent more, to educate a Class I student...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...in Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Mr. Clerk, an announcement.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. A reminder that the Urban Affairs Committee is going to meet in Executive Session in Room 2022 at 9:45; that's Urban Affairs in 2022.