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district and students who reside within the district for purposes of determining a daily average membership, fall membership, daily attendance, and so on. Resident students and option students will both be counted as attending a school if this amendment is adopted. When we look at the numbers of option students, students optioning out, sometimes there are reasons that students option out. And I got a letter from someone that attends a Class I school, and this one says: One particular argument for LB 126 is based on the number of option students who opt out of Class I school districts. In our particular case, many of those students are 7th and 8th grade students. They are...this particular school is accredited to teach 7th and 8th grade; however, we only offer through grade 6. Therefore, our option out numbers look large when, really, our students have no other choice because we do not teach 7th and 8th grade. So I'm sure that in many circumstances this is the case. We look at all of those that option out. Well, why are they optioning out? Because many times that Class I school doesn't teach that particular grade, our 7th and 8th grade level, but yet, they're added into the option enrollment, option out. I don't think that's fair. I think we should look at the students and add them all up when we talk about attending a Class I school. I don't think it's fair. We do have option enrollment. State statute says that we do. We should not take that away from our numbers. May I ask Senator Raikes a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question from Senator McDonald?

SENATOR RAIKES: (Microphone malfunction) Yes. Yes.

SENATOR McDONALD: Why was option enrollment taken out of the LB 126 of counting of the 2 and 2.5 average students?

SENATOR RAIKES: I'll give you my own version of that and, again, it was agreed upon by the committee. I should...I'll back up, 7 to 1. The argument, I believe, is that there is, first off, the main purpose, objective, of a school system is to serve...public school system is to serve the resident students. That's certainly the main thing. The second thing is there is a