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example of the personal sacrifice and the commitment that Class I optioning parents and guardians make in their value and benefit choice to send their child to a Class I school. The comment has also been made that we cannot justify a system that allows students and parents, or taxpayers, to withdraw from the broader community that supports public education. I don't believe there's another member of this body that is more supportive of public education than myself. I have been a member of a school board for over 20 years and I believe in the importance of public education in this state and in this country. As to the statement there again, I don't believe there's any foundational evidence to support it. Class I schools are no different than any other public school district in the state of Nebraska. They are publicly funded, they cannot segregate, they must meet state and federal educational standards.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FISCHER: They are accountable to local taxpayers, and they qualify, and this is important, and they qualify under the same option enrollment laws as other Nebraska public school districts. As I said earlier today, if this discussion is going to be about optioning, in regards to the overall discussion in this bill about the optioning and how parents who choose to option their students to another district are, quote, withdrawing from the broader community that supports public education, there are other school districts in this state that need to be looked at and looked at much closer than any Class I district in Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. On with discussion of the McDonald amendment, Senator Janssen. Do not see Senator Janssen on the floor. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. As we discuss option enrollment, I must say that it's probably one of the best policies we have within our...within the confines of public education so that a sense of competition is created and fostered, and that's within the confines of public education. Now, other states have engaged a little differently, whether