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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was having a discussion with Senator Foley, explaining some of the positive experiences that I had in a Class I school that I'll guarantee you would not have happened in a larger school district and, maybe if Senator Schimek would listen to this, I think it's something that would not have occurred in a larger school district. But when I was in 7th grade, and I apologize, I hope you'll oblige me a personal experience, but when I was in 7th grade, Gary Hart was campaigning for President. He was coming to town the next day and my interest in politics led me to call up my teacher and say, can we go see him at the airport tomorrow? There were six of us in class. The 8th graders were already done for the year. And the teacher said, sure, Adrian, just round up the transportation, get a parent or two to provide the transportation, and consider it done. We did that. We did that and it was an experience that I will never forget. And I realize that there is some sentiment in the body that says that's unfair that that Cedar Canyon School 7th grade got to have an experience that the larger school districts didn't have. I think it's an enriching experience that we need to maintain. We need to maintain those options. And if someone in a larger school district likes the activities of the smaller district, they have that right to option out there without being penalized in the future. Our state aid formula has encouraged the recruitment of students for whatever reason. Our state aid formula has encouraged that. Now, our state aid formula, I think many folks would agree, needs some addition, perhaps not the way Omaha Public Schools wants it to change, but it needs to reflect some of the realities of public education and the changing demographics of our state. Just because a district over here loses 150 students one year and a growing district gains 150 students the next year, that does not reflect the