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

February 14, 2005 LB 126

particular family in this district had three children with this disorder. They're legally blind, legally deaf. Two children have since died. With the one child that's left there's an occupational therapist, visits each week. The school hired a special aide and purchased sophisticated audio and visual equipment. If these children were forced to go to a Class...or to a K-12 school, those needs wouldn't go away. That child that is left out of three would still have to have the special help, the occupational therapist, and the audio and visual equipment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: The mother has moved into Eustis, but she still options her surviving child 25 miles each way to the school of her choice. And, as luck would have it, in 2003-04, 50 percent of the other students at District 22 had special education needs, which come at a high cost. The school has future special ed students in '04-05, but if the school could be considered a haven, it would be haven for appreciative parents of handicapped children, not prosperous whites. Last weekend, a District 15 student won a three-school 4th grade spelling bee. She's Latino, an option-in student whose parents don't speak English, but since she and her brother speak English pretty well, they're not listed as English language learners--another fact that Senator Raikes neglected to give us. Another Dawson County...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Louden and eight others.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to, I hope, bring some discussion to LB 126 that has been lacking in the past, but I am greatly concerned by the arguments in favor of LB 126, because I think it's casting an unfair light on Class I schools across Nebraska. And I don't want to get into each little district because, if I used my own home district as an example for efficiency when it comes to