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FLOOR DEBATE

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you can't get from point A to point B many times, well, we're not looking at the additional expenses that is created by closing some of our small schools. We're looking at going from school to school ten miles, but we're not taking into consideration where that child lives. That child obviously doesn't live at the school. That child could be already traveling 10 miles to get to the school and now we have another 10 miles, so to speak, to get to the other school, but you can't get there in a straight road, so you're going an additional 20 miles to get there, so we're looking at 30 miles. And we're not looking at the additional dollars it's going to cost our K-12 systems to provide that transportation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Fischer, on the McDonald amendment to LB 126.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, members of the body. Happy Valentine's Day. I'm from the 43rd District, Valentine, and so you may address me as Mrs. Valentine today. That would be appropriate. I'm even in red. As you know, I've been speaking on this issue with facts that refute the misinformation and the perceptions about Class I districts that have been spoken throughout the state, that have been written in newspapers, and that have been spoken in this Chamber. I promised you that this debate would be about facts, but this is an emotional issue and I am passionate about rural schools and about rural Nebraska, so if you'll just allow me a minute here to express some emotion. We've been told that all this bill is going to do is close down school boards; when you eliminate a Class I district, the only jobs you're eliminating are school board members, who are not paid anyway. I disagree with that. What this school will...what this bill will do, and we all know it in here, it's in the fiscal note, it's made very plain in the fiscal note that the intent of this bill is school consolidation. When you have school consolidation, you lose school buildings. When you lose school buildings, you make it harder for parents and students in my area of the state, you