

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

February 15, 2005 LB 126

another problem that I have with the fiscal note, that there's no accounting for these special needs kids that are going to move into these other districts. So it's a very...very much of a concern of mine. We've...I've listened to other senators talk, Senator Janssen just got done talking. The one thing that I've noticed that he said a couple of times, that I really don't have a dog in this fight, and to me this isn't only just about education. We talk about local control and I'm very...I'm a conservative person that believes that the people on the local level, especially since they're paying the property taxes or the taxes that help support this school, that they should be able to make a decision on how these schools are operated or whether they are open or whether they are closed. So I believe that everybody has a dog in this fight. I believe it's...there's more going on in LB 126 than just education, but we can go back and talk about education again. Senator Landis talked the other day about we really haven't talked much about the quality of education of the Class I's. I would like to take...Senator Landis isn't here today. Wherever he may be, I would like to offer him the invitation to go to some of these Class I schools and I will show him the quality of education that has happened in these schools and share, and share that with you. There is education going on. There's parental involvement going on. It's a type of school that I believe a lot of people, a lot of children in this state could benefit by, and I would like to be able to show people that and to prove that to people. Another thing that I'm still very concerned about in LB 126 and...is the right for people to have a say whether these schools close or stay open will be with the K-12 board and it will take at least up to four years to be...have a chance to vote on these people that sit on these K-12 boards. And a big concern of mine is that the Class I people will not have that opportunity to vote before the school is actually shut down. And how anybody can really support that I really question. So I do have a lot of concerns and questions about LB 126. I hope we keep the dialogue open. On the amendment, Senator McDonald's amendment, we talked about not counting the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: ...option students. And there was a comment