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FLOOR DEBATE

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by Senator Raikes, says that the primary mission, I believe, of the district is to the resident students. I wouldn't consider an option student a second class. I really believe we need to count these, these students in the way they're...whether the schools will be able to stay open or closed. I believe that every student is a student, and whether they're option, whether they're resident or contracted in, I think they're treated fairly. They're counted in the state aid formula and I believe that they should be counted in this formula. Thanks so much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, we've heard passion and pride in their product from the Class I schools and the people who support them. This discussion of assimilation of Class I schools has been taking place for years. I wonder if any amount of planning could have prepared the Class I school districts for consolidations, merger affiliation? There's been a decrease in Class I's over the years, but how many years would it have taken to continue to decrease the Class I schools. This is the first time that I've heard racism and white flight brought into this discussion. I just never had heard this before. I never doubt that there are efficient Class I schools; hardworking, dedicated teachers who serve their students well. But I continue to support LB 126 when it gets down to the cost per student required in real small schools and the educational dollars that are being allotted to these facilities. So I continue my support of LB 126. I return my time to the Speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear.

CLERK: I think she meant to return to the Chair, Jim.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You returned it. I'm sorry, Senator Price. I misunderstood you. The next speaker will be Senator Smith. Senator Smith, I did call on you.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The issues that have been discussed over the last few minutes and so forth I think are very relevant to the discussion, and most relevant