

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

textbooks remain in the ownership of the local school district, and it's a way that we can work together that really is insignificant in our state budget, but makes a lot of difference in the local school. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Synowiecki, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. I am opposed to the amendment, AM1431. As has been spoken to earlier, this textbook loan program is, from what I understand, has been proven to be constitutional. If you look at the state expenditures for state aid to education, you know, you're looking at \$684 million this year, and the next biennium, you're looking at \$734 million. This does not include expenditures for special education, aid to ESUs, high ability learner programs, early childhood programs, school lunch programs. And this program, if you look at it within the backdrop of them types of numbers, represents such a minuscule amount. And has been mentioned by Senator Engel, the mitigating factors relative to the private school system and its relationship, its corresponding relationship to public expenditures for public education saves the state an enormous amount of money, an enormous amount of money. So given that it...we're talking about a minuscule amount compared and contrasted with what this state invests in public education, and we're talking about less than a \$500,000 program that enables kids to participate in a private education, I would hope that the members would find it to vote against the amendment, AM1431. You know, not all private schools are on your higher-end social economic scale in terms of participation by youngsters. In my district, I have a small Catholic, inner-city Catholic, grade school that does wondrous works with the kids that attend the school, and they depend in large degree on this program, and they utilize this program to the fullest extent that they're allowed to. And I would sure hate to see that to go away for them kids. And please vote against the amendment, AM1431. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Chambers, on your amendment.