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LB 126

regarding protection of elementary attendance centers are incorporated in the amendment that will be coming down the line. And I hope that indicates to you that we tried very hard to accommodate wherever we could. And we did include some of the suggestions that were offered to us by people on all sides of the issue. I will tell you also that there are some things in here that we did not include. We...student achievement in really small schools, using that as a criteria for keeping them open, you run into real issues with reporting requirements and disclosure of individual results. The groups are too small to report those results. Cost per student information I have felt for some time--and we talked about this on General File, if you can...if you have a good memory--that the bigger issue for a K-12 organization is the cost to the entire K-12 district. It's...what happens in any one particular building or in any one particular classroom is not really the critical issue. Finally, I think a good point is made about directing money that's associated with demographic factors to the students that you are identifying in that formula. But this is not a good way to do it. This, in fact, I think puts a burden on smaller school buildings that makes it basically untenable. So again, I recognize and want to begin to acknowledge now all the work that's gone into LB 126 from...by all those involved. I would, however, urge that you not support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. On with discussion of AM1217. Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to just offer one little outlook on the proposed amendment, things that I see may be a hazard. I am not attempting to say who is either efficient or who might be a quality school, because both efficiency and quality are in the minds of the beholder, and everybody is right. But I would point out, on page 2, in part (3), the comparison that is asked to be made compares elementary costs versus K-12 costs. It costs a whole lot more money to educate 9 through 12 than it does through K through 8. So that's really not a proper comparison. It also doesn't address...it does address that, well, we'll take the special education costs out. Perhaps it should be considered that you take the English language learners