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cost out, which is considerable for some K-12s, and not for the K-6s. The other caution I would raise is trying to do some kind of a comparison of a three-year average of test scores. Testing is a complicated item. I do not think you will be pleased with any kind of result you can find with this. Standardized tests are not a very accurate indicator of either achievement or quality. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. On with discussion. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Redfield.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I just handed out to you a Wall Street Journal article from April 6, where it talks about middle schools going out of fashion, and that the model is becoming the kindergarten through 8th grade model. I spoke of that earlier. But you can look at some of the research. And I realize that it's from a big-city newspaper. However, I believe that there's some credibility there, and I hope that you will look at that. But when we think about quality education, we're not talking number crunching relating to dollars. We're talking about a qualitative analysis of our education system today. We would be seeing more Class I's. If that were truly happening, we would see more Class I's around the state...or, kindergarten through 8th grade operations, operating in a context of autonomous decisions. And we need to see more of that, not less of it. I'm very concerned about this worked-out deal, so to speak, containing new state mandates. It's going to...and for those of you who are hearing from Class III districts, K-12 districts, saying, oh, we've got to close those Class I schools, or more so, we need to control those Class I schools, that's what this is about. If it's not about closing the schools, it's about control. So it's a little power play. Nothing different than that. But these K-12 districts, Class III districts, are basically asking for mandates. And I suppose when there are various entities asking for mandates and we want to give it to them, I say, do that with caution. Be careful what you want; it may come back to haunt you. That's why I am very, very, very adamant that I will not support something that does not contain some autonomy, because that is the quality driver. We talk about prevention here in the body, primarily in health, health-related fields. We talk