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LB 126

about prevention, early childhood, because if we can educate them early enough, or intervene early enough, we can prevent further cost down the road. Tell me how that works into LB 126. I'm not convinced. If we're going to talk about prevention, we're going to look at the facts around the productivity of Class I schools, relating to high school graduation, relating to how dollars are leveraged in the community, how a Class I school brings in help from the community to build on a new addition, and probably cuts the cost of the new addition in half because there's volunteer labor. I don't see that happening in Lincoln Public Schools. I hear more about golf outings of the administrators than the community coming together in Lincoln Public Schools. We hear about communities needing, and I'm talking about true need for a new facility, and be that K-12 or not, or Class I or not, but there's true need for a new facility. And there can't be a bond issue passed because there's an alienation between the community and the public school system because of property taxes. Tell me how LB 126 is going to help that. It won't. Tell me how we bring back so many students that are being pulled out...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...into home schools. These are quality students that are being pulled out of whatever school district to be homeschooled, because there's an alienation between the public school district and the taxpayers and parents. Tell me how LB 126 gets to that. We've got some very real issues facing public education today. And a lot of it is public perception. And LB 126 is going to alienate not only public education, but public policy around Nebraska. And in the meantime, we're going to have to spend more money to do it. I don't believe for a minute that we're going to save money with LB 126. And that points to the facts, the bare facts of more administration over the last 30 years. It grows and grows and grows, and that costs money.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.