

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

May 20, 2005

LB 126

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...not remember, but transportation is picked up as a part of needs in the state aid calculation. So if it's an equalized school district, whatever decision you would make in terms of providing transportation expense would be reimbursed through state aid. Finally, and quickly, I'll mention elementary improvement grants. This was an issue brought to me by Senators Langemeier and Flood. They have situations where we're talking about the impacts of reorganizing districts, moving to a K-12, and the possible negative impacts of that on getting bond issues where they are drastically needed for elementary schools. This would provide a very limited, but some, amount of money to school districts who meet the qualifications, get approval through the department, and pass a bond issue of at least \$2 million during the window identified here, which is June 15, 2006, to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...June 15, 2007. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on AM1672, offered by Senator Raikes to LB 126. Open for discussion. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Brown and six others. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in opposition to AM1672, for reasons that I've stated earlier, but primarily that the autonomy that has worked so well in the local setting is dissolved. It's intentionally dissolved. I have put up several proposals to attempt to maintain even part of that autonomy, primarily being the operation of the community school, not even asking for bottom-line budget authority, not even asking for taxing authority. Because taxing authority was taken away a long time ago. In fact, it kind of reminds me of how, in the past, a compromise has been arrived at, primarily with the affiliation issue of several years ago, only to come back and be used against the Class I schools across Nebraska. That offends me. I think that it is unfortunate. And I fully realize that what one Legislature does in the early nineties they can undo in