

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

May 20, 2005

LB 126

some mergers and more people coming in, now is the district where it is today. I guess what I want to say is that nothing is more emotional than your children and where they go to school. It's ingrained in us, as it was in our parents and our grandparents, into that situation. But we also are a state that we need to look at everything that we do. We've made some very, very tough decisions the last several years. We've made some tough decisions on mental health, still working through that. We've made some tough decisions, particularly this session, on what are we going to do with incentive plans? I don't know that anybody is happy with everything that we got, but we're there. This is a decision, also, that some of us are going to go away from here unhappy. Matter of fact, I don't know that many of us will go away from here patting ourselves on the back and saying, wow, we did a wonderful job on the schools. But I think we can go away from here saying that we have done what, in our own deep heart feelings, was the right thing to do. I support LB 126, and I do believe, having come from a Class I school district, being part of a district today that was once a Class I school district, that we need to move on. And I would also hope, as Senator Flood mentioned, that the individuals, the parents, will look at this as what is best in the long run for this state and through our schools. When I came into the Legislature, I think we had at that time about 850 districts. I have seen that come down gradually. Do we have to, then, force LB 126? Well, even though we're reducing the numbers, I think that every, every child should be in a K through 12 district. I feel that in my heart. Others may not. I don't think we're going to...the purpose of this bill is not to go out and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...close down buildings. The purpose of this bill, I think, is to bring some unity and also some accountability across our school districts, and I hope this does that. And so, as I vote for AM1672 and LB 126, I do that thinking that this is...that there are going to be some people that are going to be unhappy. But I think it is best for Nebraska, as far as I can see, and that's where I'm coming from, that's how I'll vote on this issue. I appreciate, I appreciate all of the rural senators that have worked on this. You know,