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LB 126

if I asked for a show of hands, how many came from a rural school district, I think you would see a number of urban senators raise their hands, and also had that same experience. But I think at this point in time, that this is where we should go, and I'll be supporting LB 126. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As we've worked on this LB 126, and of course, Raikes' amendment to it, the AM1672, I asked myself, what have we accomplished? Have we...have we improved state funding for our education? Has that question been addressed? That's been a problem. Every school district you talk to, especially the larger ones, feel that they're not getting enough state funding. And if you aren't...don't believe that, why, there are some lawsuits out there that also reinforce that, that they feel that they're not getting enough funding. Has that problem been addressed in all this work that we've worked on for...on school work, you might say we've done since the beginning of the session, and probably started in last fall? I don't see any sign that we've done a thing to improve funding for state aid to education. Probably what will happen is that if there needs to be more funding, it will be pushed on property taxes. It seemed like that somewhere along the line that something like that has been considered. There's no way that that will ever be dropped back to...from \$1.05 to \$1.00, like it was at one time, until there is some consideration given, or some study or work done on funding for state aid. Some of the other things--I've noticed that the people that really support LB 126 are mostly people that are in K-12 districts, very large districts, Class III districts. If you look at some of the paperwork that floats around from the Education Department, with your average daily attendance and your average daily membership cost per pupil, some of the schools that have the highest costs per pupil are Class III districts, some of them that have been consolidated not too many years back, like Heartland Community Schools, way over \$12,000 on their attendance level. The only ones that are higher than that are schools that are on Native American lands. So I don't know if we're improving anything by more