

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

May 20, 2005

LB 126

the eight of us, and I am very appreciative of all the hours that everyone has put in. We have made some protections for the Class I schools, and I thank Senator Raikes for having done that. He wouldn't have had to. I will be supporting this amendment. As far as LB 126, I haven't made up my mind, but I would urge everyone to do what they think is best in their situation. The education of our children in this state is the most important thing. They get a good education or they get a bad education, depending upon a lot of factors, not just whether they're in a Class I or a K-12. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I think this has been an interesting process, I really do, and I think that the effort has been monumental on both sides to try to find some common ground. And it appears that, while there are some that can reach that common ground, there are obviously others that can't, and I think that's to be expected. Senator Jensen pointed out that, for parents, there's probably nothing more important to you than where your kids go to school. And I think he's absolutely correct. But you know what? I think it goes beyond that. I don't think it matters whether or not you attend Westside High School, whether you're a Bayard Tiger, or what the actual name of the school is; it's the quality of the education. And I think that's what's the most important part of that, and so for the parents that he is speaking of, and possibly himself, I think that's exactly right. It's not the location, it's not the name on the building; it's the quality of the education. The interesting part about this discussion--Senator Jensen talks about there needs to be accountability and that's why we need to pass LB 126, or the quality of education will be improved by passing LB 126. This is governance. Those issues are not here. And I think what Senator Raikes has tried to put in place here, to try to protect and to try to find that middle ground, is valuable. So I wanted to make sure that we're clear: The passage of this bill isn't somehow going to improve the quality of education in Nebraska overnight. It just simply is not. You cannot make that claim, you cannot prove that. And in fact, on General File, when there were offers made by individuals to look at test scores and the