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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 126

be at the center of this debate. But there isn't quite the political will to do that, so the larger districts skate on down the road and they can threaten the takeover of smaller districts, smaller neighboring districts, if not threaten, certainly wish for. We know that that's taking place as we speak, that they're the desires of larger districts, because they're...it's just a bother to have those smaller districts around. And, besides, they oftentimes make the larger districts look bad. These smaller districts that are attracting students through our option enrollment policy are embarrassing the larger districts. Of course the larger districts would advocate for LB 126. I'm not aware of any other support for LB 126 than the larger school districts. I am quite puzzled, quite puzzled as to why this matters so much to a few folks in the larger districts who are just hell-bent on LB 126 passing. Is this a trend that we want? Is this a trend of taking power away from the little guys? I don't think it is, so I hope you will join me in voting no. If this passes, I sure hope the Governor vetoes it, and I hope that we can sustain a veto. This is bad for rural Nebraska and it's bad for those little guys who happen to be surrounded by some bigger guys in the more urban areas. Because there are pockets of Nebraska all across these pockets that are different scenarios, but LB 126 seeks to eliminate all of them with a bit of a delayed effective date in terms of the operation of the school, not the building itself. But, to me, education is more than the four walls of a school building. Education is about community support. LB 126 destroys it, maybe not intentionally, but effectively it destroys community support. The innovation that takes place, that's what we need more of in education is the innovation of community participants, of parents participating in the school programs. LB 126 discourages it. Now, research will show that the kindergarten through eighth grade concept is an optimal scenario and that there are very progressive areas of the country looking to reinstate the kindergarten through eighth grade concept. LB 126 destroys it intentionally, not unintentionally. LB 126 intentionally removes a kindergarten through eighth grade concept and operation. I hope you'll join me in voting red on LB 126. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Heard the opening on the motion to strike the