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them what are they going to do, many of them still have not formulated any thoughts in any direction in that they want to pursue, whereas you have other students who have been exploring careers from elementary grades, and saying, yes, I want to be a nurse, or I want to be a doctor, because they have given some thought to that process. And I think that was the goal of the amendment, is to start that thought process. But certainly, I'm sure that we are open to some suggestions along that line. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, did you give up your time? Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in adamant opposition to AM2724, primarily for the reason that once again--and it's not the first time--but once again, this adds bureaucracy, more requirements, more burdens on local school districts. I don't believe that state government needs to hold the hands of local school board members, school teachers, classroom teachers, who are highly trained, have been getting the job done and will continue to get the job done without this state mandate that school districts would be required to develop individual academic plans for all eighth grade students. The plans would specify the courses the students should take each semester, in preparation for postsecondary education careers in areas of interest. The plans would be updated annually. Plans would be developed for new students prior to the student's attendance, or within ten days, if the student's attendance would be delayed by development of the plan. I try to keep a close pulse on issues in my district. I'm a teacher by training, haven't been in the classroom for quite some time, but am in close contact with some pretty high-quality public school classroom teachers. They are sick and tired of paperwork. They're sick and tired of tests, they're sick and tired of state mandates. What is this? This is exactly what that is--it's a state mandate. We can't afford to do that. I think it is actually nonsense. It lacks common sense, this amendment, and I hope that it doesn't bring down Senator Stuhr's bill, LB 690, that I think is much better, in terms of focusing on vocational education, and I think is more appropriate in scope. I must say that it's been a frustrating experience when it comes to