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have participation by school districts or whatever the group you're dealing with, in order to achieve something like that.

SENATOR SMITH: But the objective of ensuring students' ability to stay in the same school building was not met in the amendment; is that accurate?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, at least the objective, as I thought of it and intended it at the time, was that if a student wanted to attend what would be a former Class I school building, they would be allowed that opportunity.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Smith. Thank you, Senator Smith. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I was joking earlier. I said, this just in: The school board association and the schools would like more mandates. And I actually had a chance to visit with them, some of them here today, and they can't give me a good reason on why they would ordinarily support this idea, other than it helps those that need help. Well, if that's the case, and we know the kids that need help and the school districts now can't meet their need, then how do we help more kids with the current shortage that we have of being able to help them? I mean, if the guidance counselor now knows the kids that need help--and this is visiting with some of the larger school districts that are here lobbying today--if they can't meet the need now and they know the kids that need them--and it's not all kids, it's a certain amount of kids--then why do you place the mandate on all of them? We just heard a great speech this morning from Senator Bourne on another bill that Senator Elaine was introducing, that we don't try to kill the fly with a sledgehammer. But here we are. Here we are. I don't disagree that there is a need. And you know, you're a part of a program in career education, as I was growing up through my high school experience, and there's probably not been a more rewarding opportunity for me, educationally, than to be a part of those opportunities. And it does challenge you to think about where you want to be in the future. I didn't think I was going to be here, to be honest