

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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I wondered if Senator Raikes would be patient enough to yield to a couple more questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you. I'm getting ongoing feedback from my group, work group, that I have every Thursday morning and I'm getting e-mail with just a couple more questions they wanted to ask. It's...one of them was why has this legislation created so many staff positions that are currently not necessary with the distance learning program?

SENATOR RAIKES: That one puzzles me, Senator. I'm not sure what staff positions would be created. I will tell you that one of the big changes that's brought about by LB 1208 is a significant reduction in organizational structure. Currently, we have both distance education consortia and ESUs. This legislation would eliminate the distance education consortia and put the entire distance education program with ESUs. So actually, my impression would be that the number of staff in administrative positions would go the opposite direction. It wouldn't go up. It would go down some.

SENATOR COMBS: Go down. Okay. The backbone currently utilized by Nebraska Network work group is very small. How will this small backbone work to provide interactive audio/video throughout the state of Nebraska when it barely carries currently the data for the Internet?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, and this is a good point because a main thrust of this bill is to see to it that bandwidth is increased, and the backbone is, at least for me, a little bit confusing in the sense that you think of a state backbone, the state owning some fiber optics or something, which actually isn't the case. This is a series of contracts that the state makes through Network Nebraska with telecom providers for bandwidth. This, in effect, is going to spur the establishment of contracts by Network Nebraska with those providers so not only do we have a significant increase in bandwidth but we take down the walls