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and remains intense. Prominent among their arguments is that their school districts, as now organized, are efficiently providing quality educational opportunities for their students and are strongly supported by citizens in the districts. The OPS proposal has not been implemented, and no lawsuits dealing with the proposal have been brought, but certainly a relevant consideration for us is how a court might rule. Senator Brashear has provided a legal analysis, which I believe is very reliable. He concludes that under our current statute, the parts of the Millard, Elkhorn, Ralston, and Westside districts that are within the city of Omaha would remain as parts of those current districts. The idea, roughly, is that because OPS did not incorporate those areas into its district when it had the opportunity, the opportunity is now gone. On the other hand, the parts of those school districts that are not now within the city of Omaha are not so protected and could become part of the OPS district, as the city of Omaha expands. The result could eventually be island or remnant districts surrounded by Omaha Public Schools. The problems with this eventual outcome, then, include the creation of remnant or surrounded school districts, as well as the possible creation of a mega-district. In addition, there's the considerable problem of getting voter approval for bonds for needed new buildings, given the possibility of the takeover of those buildings by another district. This issue appropriately comes to us. School district organization is provided for in state statute, and the Legislature is the forum for this discussion, and the interests of the school districts and citizens in the metro area and in other parts of the state need to be considered and are represented here. But decisions about state statute--and that is what is needed--have to be made here. The proposal we bring to you is decisive, yet cautious. It steers a middle course and is focused on good state policy. It is cautious because there is an opportunity to review and change the proposed statute before it is implemented. It is also cautious because we stick with policy concepts that have worked well, the notion that all citizens should help support the public education of all the kids, a statewide finance formula, and respect for our fiscal limits. There are ways we could go wrong, which we avoid. We don't simply and unilaterally free school district boundaries. We don't attempt to buy off aggrieved districts, and we don't