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LB 1024

learning community to enact the massive busing plan this concept will require. I will close at this time and turn my light back on for later. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Further discussion? Senator Howard, followed by Senators Raikes, Connealy, Wehrbein, Stuhr, and six others. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the Bourne amendment. I feel very strongly that any workable solution to the Omaha school issue must address the racial and economic isolation that has been allowed to happen in Omaha. The Bourne amendment is a positive step in the right direction. The Bourne amendment addresses what I believe is one of the fundamental flaws of LB 1024, in that all of the school districts in the learning community, of those, only one is going to be held accountable for integrating. If we are truly creating a learning community, then we all need to be in this together. This must be a shared responsibility if it's going to work. Let me give you an example of what is wrong with the current language of LB 1024. If you go to west Omaha, near Oak View Mall on Center Street, you will see two elementary schools that are literally hundreds of feet apart, separated only by an imaginary line that was created to divide school districts. One school is in OPS, and the other is in Millard. Under the current language of LB 1024, only the OPS school would be held accountable for integrating, while the Millard school would not, even though they both serve the same neighborhood. That is simply wrong. In many ways I find it hard to believe that 52 years after Brown v. Board of Education decision, we are still having this debate. In that decision the Supreme Court found that where a state has undertaken to provide an opportunity for education in its public schools, such an opportunity is a right which must be made available to all, on equal terms. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in that decision, we conclude that in the field of public education, the doctrine of separate but equal has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. By adopting the Bourne amendment, this Legislature will be making a clear statement that separate but equal has no place in public education in