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LB 1024

added to the resources. Prior to LB 1059, the state share of the aggregate cost of education was \$180 million, about 20 percent of the cost of educating kids statewide. Now we're about 50 percent of the cost, and we're close, if you take state aid and special education, we're about at a billion dollars, and we have done things to address ELL, and we have done things to address poverty. And what Senator Bourne has failed to acknowledge is that there are lawsuits currently in the courts about some of these issues, primarily about the funding issues. And some of these numbers that are being talked about don't acknowledge some of the issues that we know to be the case--immigration numbers and where those individuals choose to live, because there is a community there. There are districts that are participatory in this process. There was a question about how Westside would integrate. Well, Westside currently has between 24 and 28 percent free and reduced lunch, district wide; Ralston, 40 percent. What I think that we aren't even acknowledging is some of the affordable housing patterns in the city of Omaha, and how little we have done to provide the availability of affordable housing to any family of limited means who might wish to live some place besides the easternmost parts of the community, which tend to have more affordable housing. But what we're losing sight of are the advantages, the things that we have changed in the underlying bill, LB 1024, because not only are we as a Legislature, through our policies, making equity,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...but the sharing of the property tax amounts throughout the learning community make a significant difference on the funding side of things. We still have a lot to do, even if LB 1024 passes, in the metropolitan community, to make available affordable housing to anyone who wishes to have it, wherever they wish to live. That is not the situation right now. It's something that, in addition to what we do for education, we're going to have to do, to have a healthy community, in my estimation. But I think that the underlying bill does a great deal to address that, and I would give the rest of my time to Senator Redfield.