## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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costs down and delivering a quality education. Next to them you see a grouping, group seven; it's highlighted in red, and this group is a student body of 4,000 to 10,000 students. I actually introduced a bill before the Education Committee that included groupings from 4,000 to 20,000, because I thought if we're going to design a system for Douglas County or Sarpy County, we should be looking at real data, real facts. This is our most economical school district size, if we're looking at the cost of state aid, if we're looking at the cost of property taxes, this is the size grouping that we want to create for our school districts. The yellow highlighting is group six. These are districts across the state--there are 26 of them in this grouping. It includes Ralston, it includes Elkhorn, it does not include Westside, which would be down there in the red grouping. I've also distributed to you an Omaha World-Herald article that shows you the cost per pupil in the school districts that would be affected by the OPS proposal, and it shows the graduation rates down below for those systems, and if you're going to measure the efficiency of your schools based on results, you may want to look at graduation rates. But I think that that's just some background data. The clear issue here is every child matters. I don't care whether they're black or brown or red or blue or purple--every child matters, and every child has a right to a good education, and Nebraska has an obligation to provide it. But I think that we are being false if we think that just because a child is a certain color, just because a child is from a certain socioeconomic group they can't succeed, we are selling our children short, and I think we're certainly selling our teachers short. OPS had an article...or I should say the Omaha World-Herald had an article back when the school scores came out, and that's not what I want to point out. The interesting thing, and the reason I saved that data was that they showed us the number of students who had qualified for free and reduced lunch in those school systems. In the Ralston School District that my children attended, Mockingbird School, an elementary there, actually is not the highest...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR REDFIELD: ...poverty rate, but you will find that 40 percent of the schools in OPS have more affluent students