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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1024

of the people moving into these areas are young couples just starting out. They may not have children when they buy, and there are people moving in from other states because of the Air Force base, and they are unaware of Nebraska's school boundary system, one of the biggest deficiencies and the negative effect of having housing areas divided by two school districts. This results in children living across the street from a school they can't go to, the cost of two school bus systems serving the same housing area, children having to travel more than six miles on a major highway in the morning rush-hour traffic, many of them teenagers who have to drive themselves. Most of the opposition to the original bill that I filed in regards to this boundary agreement came from the Papillion-LaVista School District and the small number of families that live inside the affected area. Bellevue currently has the second highest option program in the state. Approximately 264 students option in from other school districts, particularly from the Papillion-LaVista School District. This is close to 30 percent from the affected area. Who bears the cost of the option students? I realize under LB 1024 that the option enrollment program would not be funded as it is currently, but currently, it costs the state approximately \$1,452,000 a year. The Papillion-LaVista School District is fighting for this area, saying the Bellevue Public School District will negatively impact their tax base. What they are not saying is that they can and are growing to the west. The Papillion-LaVista School District's new high school was built miles and miles away from the neighborhoods they currently serve. They know they will grow to reach those districts. Why else would they have built the schools so far from the students that they serve? I do not...with this amendment do not wish to negatively impact the students that live in the affected area. I know the bill has caused the area great concern. I want to assure them that the students would not be immediately forced to change school districts under this agreement. With LB 1024 we would have...boundaries agreement would have to go to the board to decide between school districts, which would mean the school districts would have to cooperate. We've not addressed the issue of what happens when the school districts that wish to change boundaries cannot reach an agreement in this area. I want to thank you for your time in explaining the situation in District 45. Thank you.