

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

April 6, 2006

LB 1024

somebody in the Omaha school system, my child was being sent there, I would really question it. I will read parts of it later on if necessity requires that. Also another bill that I ran across, LB 513 in the year 2001, I read from the transcript a number of African-American people who spoke on this bill. You can feel the voice that they feel disenfranchised. Again I will read parts of that if need be. They feel disenfranchised and it's sad. If you just...it's just amazing. Also if we need research about the size of a school district, I have pages of it. And I see Senator Redfield passed around a very short description, two pages of various bills...or, various articles that she has read or looked up. I have them. It tells us when the school district gets too large it cannot meet the needs of the children. I didn't say the needs of the parents; I said the needs of the children. So we've got to take a look at that. And yes, a school district reaching a potential of 25,000 then you start seeing that u-shape go up. You're not as effective. Fifteen thousand would seem like a good number. Six thousand is the number that lots of people come up with. But the larger the school district gets, those children in need, it's been proven they suffer. And again I can read that to you. Another thing, just as personal experience, I have been an administrator of a building with more needs, then a building that was in pretty good shape. You operate them differently. You need to know what's going on. Now if I did not understand the culture that I was dealing with, I would be behind the eightball. So you do need people who understand what's going on. You need to understand their culture. I will grant that. Also over my past few years I've had the opportunity to teach for Wayne State and also classes for UNO. And I was always amazed when I would have conversations with teachers from OPS. I saw in their heart that they were really trying to make a difference. But I also could see that they were up against some obstacles and I attribute that to the design of the school system. I know OPS does many unbelievable things. But I truly believe if you would modify this school system, make it so when a person has a question they know where to go...and I'll just be very frank with you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PAHLS: If the administration has a question, they