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LB 1024

district within the...a city of the metropolitan class, I think is the way, the right phrase. So technically it involves only the Omaha metro area, this particular proposal, at least as I read it. The other that you may have, well, you've raised and maybe have more interest in is sort of the philosophical issue. Does this say something philosophically about how you organize school districts? I think it does. I don't know that it is a different direction than what we take now. To the extent that as long as we have a reasonably sized, efficiently sized school district, we try to grant authority to local people to control that district. Now certainly we have statewide regulations, laws, and other things that bound what an individual school district does. But we do, in fact, lean as a state toward allowing communities, communities of interest, to decide how they want to do public schools.

SENATOR HOWARD: As always, you provide the information and I appreciate it very much. Can you...would you see in the future the possibility of communities or districts bringing in the concept of a learning community for their own school system, even though they're not Class V? Say Grand Island would like to utilize that concept and these principles. I wouldn't see that too far fetched as happening. Would you agree with that?

SENATOR RAIKES: I would agree with that. In fact, in LB 1024 there is specific provision for that to happen. And as you know, on the committee we've been very much interested in organizational changes that promote, require school districts to work together. This is one way of doing that. And I think that the specific provisions are that a learning community could be formed anywhere in the state as long as it includes all the school districts headquartered in at least one county and there are at least 2,000 students involved. So Grand Island, Hastings, maybe Lexington, South Sioux City would all be possibilities, I believe.

SENATOR HOWARD: I think this is something important for us to consider. Both you and I will be here on the Education Committee next year, and I think we have to be mindful of what we may plant with this concept. I have an additional concern, a number of them actually, but whenever I hear of another board or