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breakup of OPS. It did it in a different fashion. It said that there could be no school district with more than 25,000 students. Now we changed that in a later version, but that was certainly an idea that was made available in the committee. The other thing I'll mention is Senator Kruse I think really related to concerns that a number of people may have, and certainly I've had to work my way through, and that is that OPS has done all this work in the form of trying to create and accomplish an integration plan. I will tell you in that connection that OPS also probably, for good, bad, or other reasons, created the job. In 1998, OPS went to neighborhood schools. That basically created school buildings that were pretty much one race in the building or predominantly one race. Now I will admit that...or not just admit, I will absolutely and properly concede that they've worked on trying to address that since then. But the fact is that there's sort of two sides of that coin to deal with as regards the administration of the Omaha Public Schools. This is not, certainly, in my view a proposal to further segregate or further separate by racial group students in Omaha Public Schools. Again, this particular proposal deals with what group controls the public schools in that community. As far as I'm concerned, all of the things that we would otherwise do to ensure that there is a diversity of students would, in fact, be maintained or even enhanced. Another way or another point I would make is that this is a request by local communities to have a chance, have the opportunity to direct and control and administer their own school districts. These are communities that have a number of able people, qualified people, and certainly interested people.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: It's my view that they absolutely deserve that chance. And I am certainly not willing to say that they can't do it. I think there's no evidence to indicate that that would be an appropriate thing to conclude. So again, this is about who controls the public schools in a local community and suggests that the folks that are in the local communities should have that chance, should be given that responsibility. Thank you.