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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006      LB 1024

speakers: Senators Brown, Bourne, Chambers, Janssen, Schimek.  
Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I will not be supporting the reconsideration. I have listened to the discussion and heard a lot of admonishment to slow down, but what I haven't heard is a solution. Possibly what Senator Kruse is suggesting might be a solution, but I...I'm not sure that I've heard anything. And Senator Friend has suggested that we don't have to do anything. Well, then we don't have either the Raikes-Chambers amendment, but we also probably don't have the underlying bill. And I am someone who has been very concerned about the community. Some of the questions that I asked Senator Chambers the first time around had to do about the community. I'm very concerned about economic development. I am a person who probably is the most likely to be compelled by the individuals who had the press conference and spoke the other day. But I also understand what Senator Redfield has suggested, that with...without the...with the Raikes-Chambers amendment we may have fractures in the community, but without the Raikes-Chambers amendment we have fractures in the community that we are going to have to deal with. And I believe the underlying bill, the provisions of a common levy, of the ability to...for children to attend wherever they choose to in the metropolitan area with transportation, those provisions are the things that were the context, for me, of adopting the Raikes-Chambers amendment in the first place. I feel like we have two options. We have the bill with the Raikes-Chambers amendment, or we abdicate our responsibility to deal with this issue. We will have no learning community, no common levy, no metro discussion about what the future is, no way for students to go from one place to another. I just...I find the discussion about there being more of a limitation under LB 1024 of people moving around to be...I just do not see it. I also don't see that this is about racial segregation. Although I disagree with Senator Chambers about many things, I probably disagree with him about the value of integration, I don't disagree with him and I don't question his motivation about his passion for children receiving the finest education they have and every child, no matter whether they're black or brown or yellow or white, every child. I believe that he really believes that. And the