

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

April 10, 2006      LB 228

quite expensive day-care center, because the attention span sometime of those youngsters like that isn't all that great, and they end up so that in the afternoons they have to play or do art or do something, and just generally bring their rug to school and take a nap part of the time. As my kids went to kindergarten, that was part of the deal there, and a lot of those kids came and usually just plainly took a nap in the afternoons. So this is all something that costs money, and the schools...when I was on the school board, sometimes we had kindergarten for half the year all day. Some years if we were strapped for teachers and that sort of thing, we had kindergarten every other day for maybe 12 weeks of the year, and as those children went on through schools, it didn't make much difference whether they had kindergarten all day, half a day, or part of the time, or whatever. As they grew out of it, they usually did quite well along with it. So I don't think this early childhood and kindergarten thing is all that it's promoted to be. I think it depends on the people. If the parents want to teach their children, and if the children have the right kind of home life and have the different educational opportunities at home when they're little to work with, that they will do quite well. So I really will, I'm going to oppose the amendment and oppose the LB 228, and I'll oppose the whole shebang. So that's the way it is. So thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Howard, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'd like to address a couple of concerns that were brought up. First, Senator Redfield's children are, like my children, out of grade school, out of high school, and I think, for the most part, out of college now. And when our children were going to kindergarten, the age when a child had to attend school was seven, so her little girl would actually not have had to have been in kindergarten but could have been home with her mother, if Senator Redfield felt that was the better choice for her. And along those same lines, I would suggest that kindergarten and school age, prior to the mandatory age of attending school, which now is six years old, is really a parent decision. I would not call that a local decision. I would call