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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006 LB 228

are appropriate for a child six years old in full-day kindergarten. This is my priority bill, and I feel committed to this issue, and I ask for your endorsement on this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Jensen. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM1988? All in favor vote aye; opposed vote nay. Voting on ceasing debate on the committee amendments to LB 228. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question was successful. Senator Raikes, you're recognized to close on AM1988.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This committee amendment, as amended now, would make it a requirement in statute that accredited schools, which include all public schools, offer full-day kindergarten by the 2009-2010 school year. It's important, I think, to remember, as has been pointed out, that currently very few K-12 school systems, school districts in the state, do not offer all-day kindergarten. Most of the students that are in districts that don't offer it are in the Omaha or Lincoln districts. Both of these districts are planning on meeting this requirement; in fact, favored it. I would remind you quickly that two years ago we addressed--two years I think it was--that we addressed the issue of entry into kindergarten, and at that point, we changed the requirement some, but an important consideration is that every parent would have a two-year period at which...during which they could enter their child in school and in kindergarten. So there is flexibility even with this requirement. This simply says that once you do enter the kindergarten program in a school, beginning in 2009-10, that would be a full-day offering. Finally, I'll correct, perhaps, what I said earlier about funding, state aid formula. There is a change in the formula