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schools do not accept exempt students on a part-time basis; in other places in the state, they do...they have consistently accepted those students. So there is, again, an inequity. In the parts of the state where school districts...or, the school districts; I shouldn't say "parts of the state." Where the school districts have accepted these students, generally they've argued that quite often accepting the student on a part-time basis leads to, shortly thereafter, full-time participation in the public school by that student. And they cite that as a reason that this is a good practice. So I support this Erdman amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm always concerned with mandates, and I think things can be worked out and I think things are being worked out amongst the school districts with these type of students. In my local area there, we have a lot of parochial schools, and we do have, you know, students that are accepted in the extracurricular activities of the younger age and of other classmates. So I think we can get along without making a mandate, and I will not support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. I support this bill. One of the surprises I had when I came to this place, when I got the appointment, was the number of homeschoolers in my district. I was quite surprised at the number. And they are very engaging, in terms of the legislative process. And, Senator Stuthman, I very...and Senator Loudon, as well, I very much appreciate your comments, but I think one of the drivers behind this is that not every school board, not every school district has been as welcoming and open to this as you have fortunately seen in your district. I think there are instances in this state where school boards have taken a rather stringent position relative to the issue of part-time students and, quite frankly, that door is not open to