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certainly urge you to consider advancing LB 1024. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. On with discussion. Senator Fischer, followed by Senator Smith and others.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would respectfully disagree with Senator Raikes. I don't think I'm being used on this issue with LB 126, and I don't believe any opponent of LB 126 is being used on it. I will give you my reasons why I feel that way. If we attach an amendment on to LB 1024 that would repeal LB 126, then the effective dates to dissolve those Class I districts on June 15, it wouldn't happen. If it is unconstitutional, it's going to have to go to court to show it's unconstitutional, and the court systems usually move slow in this state. By the time it would get to court, there is a question on the ballot in November that will allow the people to vote to repeal LB 126. So, you know, I'm kind of thinking I can't lose on this one. If we get the amendment on, if it's unconstitutional and it's declared so, we'll have saved those Class I districts on that June 15 deadline, and then we can let the people vote on it in November. Maybe somebody else has a different view of that, but that's my view and I don't think I'm being used on supporting that amendment. Maybe not specifically Senator Connealy's amendment, but I think it has to be tweaked so it just addresses the repeal of LB 126. I'd like to address the cost. Nobody has talked really about the cost of LB 1024. I don't know what the cost of LB 1024 is, but I do know the cost to school districts, K-12 districts, Class VI districts and Class I districts with what happened with LB 126. They're suffering. In some cases, they've gotten students from affiliated districts and they haven't gotten any land. That means their valuation didn't go up to support the students. In other districts, when they look at the costs, they're going up. In my home district, Valentine High School, Class VI district, they're looking at tremendously high costs. Teachers don't...still don't know if they're going to have a job, where they're going to have a job, what school they're going to be at, because in my area, we are closing schools, folks. We're closing some rural schools. Other schools have to remain open because of the distance. And