

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

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

able to have a racially divided city with substantially different scores and results around the city, and for the most part, if I understand it correctly, a relatively blind eye towards those issues that come out of the racial minorities and their relationships to OPS. And that's a result I don't want to have happen. I don't think Senator Bourne endorses that, I don't think the proponents...or the opponents of LB 1024 endorse that. But I've got to say, I don't want OPS to walk away from this, leaving them with an 1891 bill and a lawsuit, and no obligation to do anything, no sense of the need to do anything, but to simply endorse their swallowing up of the suburban districts as their agenda. And I don't want to tell OPS that that agenda alone is satisfactory. And by the way, I don't want to tell the suburbans, and you know what, you get to walk away. You get your white flag. You get your money. You get to be on the ring of the city, and you don't owe anything to the kids downtown or the kids in south Omaha, and the kids in north Omaha. You've escaped, and you've got your school systems--hold onto them and build a wall around them and don't owe anything to those other kids. I don't want to say that, either, which is why I don't want the bill to be defeated in its current form. And you know what? Oddly enough, I don't want it to pass in its current form. It is, I think, at this moment not fully considered to the point that we would endorse it as policy. It reaches out and whacks both sides pretty hard, which is why right now we're fighting. Can we just get rid of my whack and then get back to the bill that whacks the other side, which is what these two parties have done all along. Why? Because they have structured everything in a "everything for me, nothing for you" mentality. Starts with the first one--we'll collapse your districts into our districts and we'll take your resources, and I'll do it, the answer to which was, oh, no, no, no, no. Let's pass a law that will repeal that authority so we can then be free from our...any obligation to help. What we've got is "winner take all" thinking on these two parties, and we need to place them both in jeopardy so that they have reason to talk to each other. If I have to do...what I don't want to do is reconsider the Cornett amendment, and the reason is I don't want OPS to feel any less responsibility for addressing racial division in that city than they have now. We do not want to give them a gold star for where they are. I think we have every