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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, 3.5 minutes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would yield it back to Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, 3.5, 3, 20.

SENATOR SMITH: I thank Senator Bourne for his generosity, but I would waive the balance of my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members, there are so many moving pieces in this that I generally want to say where I am when I stand up, and I'm not even sure where I am. Where my heart is, is what has become in my community a divide--I don't know exactly when it started--a divide around kids and a divide around education. I know that when OPS filed the lawsuit against the state on funding it was evident it got worse with the actions of the OPS board last year, some one or two days after we were out of session, that has been found to be illegal by the Attorney General's office. But I am concerned about the process, the perception of our process, and I know that we, you know...the perception of our process is always determined by whether you like it, whether you get something out of it or whether you don't. And there have been many examples in the past where process has been used to achieve an end. But I do think that we have to worry about perception in many ways. We have to worry about the perception of the community that supports OPS. We have to worry about the perception of the people in Senator Chambers' community that feel that they have not had an adequate voice in managing their schools. We need to worry about the perception of the community of the suburban schools who believe that they are doing a good job and that what OPS has done is a slap in their face. And what worries me is that without LB 1024 to bring OPS to the table we have nothing. I think Senator Raikes' rationale for LB 1024 was to bring everybody to the table, and there are parts of it that I know that the suburban schools had to swallow hard to accept. I