

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2006 LB 1024

thing that my amendment would do by trusting Senator Raikes in saying we have two years to work it out. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw this motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have with respect to LB 1024 is by Senator Howard. Senator, I have a note that you would like to withdraw AM3167 and offer as a substitute AM3261. (Legislative Journal pages 1660-1661.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard, is that true?

SENATOR HOWARD: Yes, it is.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR HOWARD: I had pushed on my light...Mr. President and members of the body, I had pushed on my light to stand in support with Senator Kopplin. As I've said previously on this floor, Senator Kopplin and I were the two individuals that voted for this bill not to come out of committee. Senator Kopplin and my district are as far apart as they could be and we are on opposite sides of this issue in many regards. But we both share the concern regarding this bill. While I believe the end result of LB 1024 as it is currently written will be segregation, many of my colleagues stated during and after the debate on the Chambers amendment that they voted for it because they felt smaller school districts are better for students. I know Senator Redfield has presented a great deal of research on the subject which you already have. If you truly believe that smaller districts are better, then it should be easy to support this amendment. My amendment is very simple. It would simply expand the policy that the Legislature has endorsed, that Omaha Public Schools be split into three districts of about 16,000 students and apply this to all districts in Nebraska. This would mean the Millard Public Schools would be split into two separate districts and the Lincoln Public Schools would be also divided. If we are adopting a state policy that requires small districts in parts of Omaha, then it should apply to everyone in our state. It makes no sense to me that we would