

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

April 13, 2006 LB 1024

enact laws based on impartiality, to remind you we are passing law. We cannot, I repeat, cannot pass laws punitively. We are not the enforcement branch of government. We are here to pass laws to make our state a better place to live, a place where people want to live, and a place where people want to relocate. This is about perception. How are we as a state going to be perceived by the nation and by the world? Is this the image that we wish to present? Already, a major convention has cancelled in the metro area because of the perception of this bill. I want to ask you if you really understand the full impact of LB 1024 to the state as a whole. What are its long-range implications? What is it going to cost? How are we going to force districts, when they reach that magic number of 25,000, to sit down at the table and discuss boundaries? Senator Raikes says there's nothing in here to force them to do that. The boundary issue is why we are here today. Has this bill in its current form had a public hearing? Have we heard from the people it will affect, or are we moving forward as a body without the will of the people? Have we answered the questions? Are we state sanctioning segregation? The Attorney General doesn't believe this question has been answered. No one has had time to fully digest the bill and its ramifications, neither do a majority of civil rights attorneys I have spoke to since Monday. Will this bill cause us to be sued? This body seems to be afraid of being sued. That's what keeps being brought up. OPS is going to sue, Millard is going to sue. We are going to be sued. We can't be afraid of that. The question is, do we wish to be sued by a school district or do we wish to be sued by a national organization based on what is perceived as segregation? This body needs to understand that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CORNETT: ...whatever we do, we will be...we're drawing national attention to our state. I'm going to ask one last time. Please stop, think. Why are you voting? Analyze your reasons. Look into your heart one last time and ask, is this the right thing to do for all of the children? Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cornett. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion, Senator Beutler.