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support that effort. But I think that at the end of the day, when we have weighed the effort, what we have done is we have held feet to the fire, we have done it in a way that is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...balanced. I don't like the position that I'm in. I don't like the position of being forced to vote yes or no on something where there is not complete agreement, knowing what happened last year. And that is why I'm sensitive to that, and that is why that I tried to bring an idea. And again, I would be willing to support that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Schrock. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And we had the Governor make a statement on this bill, and in his statement yesterday, he had a seven-paragraph statement, and in the sixth paragraph he said, it's clear to me that the motivation behind this proposal is neither segregation nor separation. But we know...we all know that that's not true. We were all here at the beginning of this debate. With the addition of the Chambers amendment, this bill is about separation and segregation. No matter what all the other good things are in this bill, locking up borders, and the learning community, and the Heidemann amendment that helped the schools, we are tied now to separation and segregation with this bill. Unless we pull that out, it's just going too far. It's farther than I can go. To divide up on the lines of race, which this bill does, is too far for us to go, no matter what the good things are in the bill. And I believe that we need to step back and say, we cannot do this, we can't turn the clock back years of planning. Like, we could offer control and curriculum and advice and things like that for local schools in Omaha and other places. But to divide up into different districts I think is a major step backwards for this state, and it's something that I just can't do. Thank you, Mr. President.