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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2006      LB 1024

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, followed by Senator Friend.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Thank you, Senator Flood, for your remarks. I'm kind of going in a little bit different direction. Again, when I got up this morning, I was kind of in my capacity as a member of the Appropriations Committee. And I'd like to kind of reiterate what we're looking at here with regard to LB 1024. And a lot of people...there has not been a lot of discussion relative to the appropriation side of this bill. What happens immediately is an almost \$500,000 expansion of the bureaucracy at the Nebraska Department of Education. For the for year '07-08, you're looking at a \$500,000 expansion of the bureaucracy, new administrators. And then we move to the real expenditure under LB 1024: for year '08-09, \$26 million; \$28 million in '09-10. And the fiscal sheet you have in front of you has about nine question marks for the following out year. Now, I know the political persuasion of a lot of my colleagues is a little bit different than mine. I know...you know, I don't think Senator Fischer, Senator Langemeier, Senator Heidemann, I don't think you ran for this office in a competitive election promising your constituency that you're going to add \$500,000 to the bureaucracy at the Nebraska Department of Education. I doubt, Senator Fischer, that was your platform during your election. I doubt that you ran on the promise to your constituency that you would send \$24 million to the Omaha metropolitan area in increased, in increased expenditure for their school system. Senator Langemeier, I doubt if that was part of your political platform when you came to the Legislature. Your constituents are watching, and that's what you're going to vote on. You're going to set in motion, with an affirmative vote on LB 1024, you're going to set in motion these expenditures: a \$500,000 addition to the Nebraska Department of Education almost immediately, \$24 million additional expenditure to the Omaha metropolitan area for schools. Again, I wasn't involved in any of your campaigns, and I doubt, though, I doubt, though, that that's what your constituencies sent you down here to do, quite frankly. I doubt that they wanted you, knowing the geographical