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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2006 LB 1024

debate in regard to where we're going with what we had as framework and now with what we have as specific instructions to take specific action. The amendment still includes that, like I said. I mean, it's very specific in regard to laying out contiguous boundaries and the whole bit. So I, like Senator Bourne, I don't consider this whining. I mean, I...debate, to me, is debate. I mean, I grew up with three brothers, and that's almost like a call to arms: quit whining. All right. They're pretty tough. They're tougher than me. And the point is, I think that this is a legitimate debate. We're on the sixtieth day. I think it's worth talking about. And I pointed out earlier, I just think that this is something that we need to be sure about. This is part of the discussion. And in the long run, at the end, I think that this should require a supermajority to provide those checks and balances. Mr. President, I...that's all I'd have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Price, followed by Senator Kruse. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I am supportive of LB 1024, but I am opposing Senator Howard's amendment. Prior to the hearing on this bill, the Lincoln Public Schools had indicated to all school districts involved in this bill that the Lincoln schools would watch the process of the bill, but not get involved. Now it appears that there is an attempt to pull LPS into the fight with this amendment. It appears to be an indication to discuss the size of school districts. Senator Chambers' amendment addressed the involvement and control parents have in influencing their schools that their children attend. I served on the Lincoln Board of Education in Lincoln for 14 years, and I'm very familiar with the management style of this district. Lincoln Public Schools is a decentralized school district. What does that mean, to be decentralized? It means that individual building principals have the ability and responsibility to make decisions about staffing the school they lead, what supplies are needed for the students of that school, and what equipment is needed for that school. In Lincoln, building principals make decisions about their school, and parents have immediate access to building principals. Part of a principal's evaluation is