

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

April 13, 2006 LB 1024

LB 1024. It is not a popularity contest in my district, I assure you. (Laugh) I'm getting all kinds of advice, people that say I'm flip-flopping and so on, between these issues of conscience. Not in my mind. I have said from the beginning, when you've got a fight in the room, it's time to stop the fight. That's priority. That's where I've been from the beginning. We've got to stop the fight. There is no evidence--and I'm not talking to just OPS--there is no evidence that any of the districts in this fuss would come to the table unless we direct them to do so. We've been asked to stop and think. I welcome the chance to stop and think. And what I'm thinking, genuinely trying to rethink it all, is that it is a reality that many changes will come down the road as we get responses. I do not expect this to raise the state budget, but if it does, the figures that we've been talking about is .5 percent of what we give in TEEOSA aid. I do not expect that to happen, because I expect OPS to come to the table in a very open and willing fashion and welcoming those other districts who are trying to help us and are willing to help us solve a huge problem that we and OPS cannot do on ourselves. It is, to me, unreal that we would consider fussing with the details, at this point, on factors we do not know. We have to wait for this...we've got to get it started and then see how it plays out, and that learning community will give us a good education. They, I hope, would discuss what the proper size of a district would be. And if they discuss that carefully, especially in tune with Senator Redfield's thoughts,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...I would guess that they will find things to do there. So in closing, we have a negotiated starting point. I recognize the districts that did...that wanted to stay out of this fight are coming to the fight. It's not fun. We're making a promise here, we in the Legislature. To those districts I say, we are not coming...you are not coming to our fight. You are coming to our discussion and helping us in planning for excellent education. We the Legislature, we promise to listen and respond as you share your vision for a metro learning community that carries vision and promise for the future. I thank you.