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FLOOR DEBATE

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area. A learning community has been talked about, and then dividing up OPS into three different districts. By the way, District 66 has been confined for a number of years, a district within a city, functioned quite well. It's going to change, however, from a district that received no state aid, but because of the reconfiguration, to a district that will receive state aid. But we could look at this as the end, but I think it's better to look at it as a beginning, and how we move on from here. And if LB 1024 is passed, how can we ensure that we're going to end up with the best school system, not only in the state, but in the nation? That is the kind of vision that I have. That is where I'd like to go with this. And I think we can do that. I think that we can be a model. I think that we can have a board, a...that is made up of all of those districts within that learning community, and I think we can have competition, and I think that we can reward those who are doing a good job, and those that are not, we can help along. Every one of these districts, we're not saying that if you're a white district you can't have black or Latinos. Again, 66 has reached out and brought a number of those in, and they can...I think they're going to do more of that, as well as all the districts will. Some will have more than others, but we're all part of the same system. Our goal is to provide the best education for Nebraskans that we can. I think that we can do that.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR PRESIDING

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: I'm committed to LB 1024. I'm committed, after that, when I'm out of office, to ensure that we still have a good system. I'll attend meetings. I'll make my voice heard. I think that's our responsibility, whether in or out of the Legislature. So I'm going to vote for LB 1024. I'll stay the course. I'll listen to all those who are opposed to that position, and I'll take their voice, if necessary, and present it to the board, wherever that might be, whether it be within a learning community, or a small district, to help with that. If we can all be committed to that, I think we can all come up with a great system. Thank you, Mr. President.