

Class IIs talking right now about doing something on the consolidation front. This bill, I am very concerned, will (inaudible) any activity in that area and so I don't...my concern is that those...this...if you want to...if you think in your mind only the Class Is, it's an easy vote, but at the same time if you're going to continue on the path of attacking the Class IIs, you're taking away a tool which can be easily resolved to your satisfaction of having...not having a tax saving and, in this case, you're probably going to lose 1059 money if they do it anyway. But they will achieve a quality product that many people have said they need to do. And so it's not in the area of the country school that I'm talking about and I...I mean, it's not because of Senator Jones' problem, or Dierks' problem, or Senator Wickersham's problem, it's not even a problem that I have in my district because I gain money on Withem's amendment. But the fact is my concern is you're taking away a tool that allows school districts to achieve something many of the very people pushing this amendment have always said is what they should be doing and now take away a tool for them to achieve that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I really wasn't going to talk on this but since Scotty and others did I feel obliged to stand and say that some of you may remember that I introduced a bill that would provide that there be one school district per county, period. And, believe it or not, there are eight counties in the state that have one school district. Douglas County has 15, seven of those overlap in other counties. To be completely frank, Senator Withem is one of the people who stood in the way of people like me from addressing this issue even more seriously, as it applies to the Class I and Class II districts, he really did. You know, one of the things we talked about when I introduced a bill to consolidate all school districts in every county into one district and administratively it's easy, it can be done. In fact, to be completely frank, the county board could be the school district. They could hire the superintendent and you could run all the schools, no closing of any schools, don't, you know, dismantle and throw away your buses. But it can be done, you all know that. So what this is it's a parochial, political issue. So I would like to suggest this. If we can't seem to agree that we can, in fact, support an effort that provides that everybody in this state supports a high school system, not just when it's convenient when your kids