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seems to be working. I visited this morning with the superintendent of unified District 1 in my legislative district and they're very pleased with what's happened with the administration part of it and with the transportation part of it and with the funding part of it. So I think that what we have started is working and there seems to be a tremendous amount of interest and I'd hate to see us put a wet blanket on that process. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler, on the Baker amendment, AM0441.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to briefly support the Baker amendment. Again, I think most of us feel that some kind of support in this area is certainly appropriate, but it's also expensive for something that affects a very small percentage of the school districts and an even smaller percentage of students. So his amendment makes some sense, especially in light of the committee amendment, which essentially doubled the cap and resulted in a fiscal note that went from \$6.8 million of potential liability in the out year of 2002-2003, to a potential liability of over \$10 million. So the Education Committee has made this a very good thing for a short period of time and I think Senator Baker's amendment starts to bring this into some kind scale that represents something that's arguably doable for a very small number of students out of state funds, but, even at that, it's a lot of money. But I would like to thank Senator Baker for proposing the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Baker, you're recognized on your amendment. Senator Baker, did you wish to use your...Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I misspoke when I answered the question for Senator Dierks. My amendment changes...it simply says this section shall apply, meaning the consolidations and unifications (inaudible) with an effective date after May 31st of 1996 and before August 2nd of 2003. The bill reads 2004. We shortened the application period one year. They have to have...this merger, consolidation,