

SENATOR WITHEM: I said it was good for you to ask questions when you don't know the answers, you probably should ask...I don't know, it has not been brought to my attention that there is a new fiscal note and whether there is a need to reevaluate the appropriation on the bill.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, the language in the bill far exceeds the \$220,000 fiscal note that is the most recent fiscal note. So we can talk about that later, I thought that's not in this amendment and maybe we should talk about that.

SENATOR WITHEM: Sure. Yeah, I think we should probably.

SENATOR MOORE: It wasn't my intention to ask you a question you didn't know the answer to either, but that was kind of fun.

SENATOR WITHEM: You did a good job though, that was good.

SENATOR MOORE: But on...more specifically, on your amendment, obviously, there has been a great deal of concern by a variety of people, rightly or wrongly, about the NAEP test. Correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, the NAEP test has kind of been the center of the storm on this measure.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, and, really, your amendment does not really...the bill itself doesn't really address that, that's just what the...how the...that is the test the department would choose to administer. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, and I might add that they already have the authority to do so under current statute but that is the test they have indicated that they will use as part of their gathering data that this bill calls for.

SENATOR MOORE: Is...I guess the question I want to ask you is, is there a reason it has to be that test? I mean, you and I agree, at least, that we...I feel maybe some statewide testing of students, I guess I...the opponents of this bill have made a great deal of difference between tests...assessment tests and achievement tests and I guess I was under the understanding, in my own simple mind, that we're talking about an achievement test here like the Iowa basic skills but I...we're not really talking about a test quite like that, we're talking about an assessment