

September 30, 1992 LB 3

state aid to education formula. Now, to put a little caveat on the end of that, lest I would be accused of misleading anybody, that's applicable to those school districts where 85 to 90 percent of the kids in the state attend that do, in fact, receive general state aid to education. If it's a district that does not qualify for equalization aid,...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...the dollars may not flow through quite as well. So this is not a dastardly program that we're talking about, particularly in light of the budget crunch we're in. What we're saying, in essence, is because of the budget crunch we're in we're going to pay for these kids' education once through the state aid to education formula, we're not going to pay them twice. We're saying that the bigger public policy bite that was contained in LB 3 originally, which would be we fund nobody in foster placement, we ought not to do that step right now because we just don't understand it well enough. As I said, I reluctantly support the Moore-Ashford amendment because I'm concerned about this entire policy but I agree we don't know enough about it. I do think we know enough about the foster home placement...

SENATOR WARNER: Time.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...to indicate that I'm supportive of this amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Pass.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Beutler. Passes. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'll try to be brief, ladies and gentlemen. One of the things you learn around this place is that nothing is ever done without a reason. The reason very simply for LB 3 and the shifting of the cost from one entity to another is to save money for the state. The dollars are going to be relatively the same, apparently. It's going to be picked up by someone else. Now there are all sorts of explanations as to how we're going to minimize the impact upon the school but we all know the problems that exist with the various types of equalization aid, etcetera, and so there will be some impact adversely upon some of these