

us agree that that is a good policy to encourage local governments to be frugal and reward them for doing so, and that is what the unused budget authority essentially does. When I first read the language in Section 4, I believe it stated pretty clearly that this applies to the current fiscal year and any unused budget authority a local subdivision may currently have. However, I have had others comment to me that they questioned whether or not the language would clearly allow local subdivisions to use the unused budget authority they currently have. It does definitely allow them to use authority that they may have in the future. So I decided to offer this amendment to merely clear up the confusion that may exist on this issue, and certainly there is a decided difference of opinion, and I think this would clear that all up. I don't believe that this conflicts with the intent of the existing language. My amendment would simply attempt to make clearer what the language we perceive says, and I hope that you would adopt this amendment as part of the package, as Senator Withem talked about. With that, I thank you very much and turn my time back to Senator Withem.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem, there is a minute and a half. Senator Coordsen, to speak to the Withem amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I, too, rise to support the Withem amendment. As all of us know, 299 is applicable, with the exception of the added section that it would be relative to the growth in school budgets of 1059 lids. (LB) 299 applies for the next two fiscal years, and the intent of it is to...it is our attempt to prevent what has happened, on rare occasion in the past, and that is an elected board making a run at extraordinary budget expenditures trying to get a base for anticipated future revenue sharing from the state side. And from that perspective were it not for that experience that we've had in years in the past, 299 actually wouldn't have a great deal of necessity to be passed. Relative to the new part, and certainly I support the carry forward of unused budget authority, the exception for special education, and the changes that have been made...used...that allow a government unit to exceed their budget over what's required in 1029...or in 299 by a super supermajority vote of the body that provides some degree of flexibility because we're dealing with, you know, more than 3,000 units of government of different types and organizations across the state of Nebraska. I'm not at all