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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR RAIKES:      ...in the formula, to provide funding to support those contracts, it would sort of be anti-equalization. You would be, in effect, increasing the spending in the already high district.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      I understand that, but this situation is a little different, isn't it, in the sense that...or is it different, in the sense that, yes, they were high spending but, given all of the fiscal circumstances surrounding that district, they could rightfully anticipate to continue to be a high spending district but now we come with this bill. Does this bill mean that in some districts they may not be able to be as high spending and, therefore, may not be able to honor the contracts that they made previously?

SENATOR RAIKES:      Well, fair enough, but I think that school systems by and large across the state are on notice, have been, not just with this bill but over a long period of time.

SPEAKER BROMM:      Time.

SENATOR RAIKES:      Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM:      Thank you, Senators Raikes and Beutler. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I just want to make some comments. First of all, I don't want it to go to his head too far, but Senator Raikes and the committee did a very, very good job on working up this TEEOSA aid in terms of this formula. And he mentioned earlier how we got to it. Our committee had cut some to a given figure, using the certified number as of February 1, and with that the Education Committee had taken this and given the...given you what you have in LB 540. And I want to acknowledge that because it did help our process very greatly in terms of the amount that it freed up that we were able to allocate to education. The draconian cuts that were made in the Governor's budget in terms of K-12 and higher ed, and I won't go into great detail, it will be available to you tomorrow in terms of the comparisons to the cuts that were made there versus what our committee made, versus