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LB 540

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you.

SENATOR FOLEY: Again, anything we can do to nudge the school districts to keep those cuts away from the classroom I think we ought to do. It's going to be imperative that we keep the high quality of education in this state and fund it to the extent that we can. And when we fall short of our funding goals, we ought to do what we can to keep those cuts away from the classroom. So thank you, Senator Bourne, for bringing the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Smith, on the Bourne amendment to LB 540.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Would Senator Bourne yield to some questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly. Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Bourne, I am with the objective of trying to support the amendment, and so if you could help clarify some concerns that I have.

SENATOR BOURNE: Sure. I'd appreciate your support.

SENATOR SMITH: Would you say that there would be a penalty involved with this?

SENATOR BOURNE: No, I'd say none whatsoever. It's simply setting forth the policy, reiterating what our constitution says, what our State Board of Education has said through resolution, that the priority should be classroom instruction. And so, no, I don't think there's a penalty whatsoever. I'd rather have our kids have books than, you know, replacing the fleet, the cars in a school district, or "re-Astroturfing" the stadium. You see what I'm...my point is, is I want kids...we're making cuts. Nobody wants to make those cuts. In a perfect