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LB 540

So this policy, it makes sense. You know, I was talking to a mother the other day, a lady who had a child at a school. Actually, it wasn't in my district but in my home town. And she indicated to me that not all the kids in that school, in that particular class that her daughter was in, had textbooks. Now she did say they had access to the textbooks on line, but they didn't have them there in the classroom, and I've heard that from other people as well. It just seems to make sense that what we're trying to do with all of our budget cuts, things of that nature, is we're trying to minimize the impact on people, and I'd suggest that we're trying hard to minimize the impact on the future of our state, which is our kids, and I think this is a reasonable compromise, or not even a compromise. I think this is a reasonable measure. So if you're going to make cuts, do them in a way that affects the kids in a minimal amount. It's plain and simple, it's fairly straightforward, and again I urge your support. I don't believe that this is the end of the school districts, as some people have articulated. And to me privately some people have said that our schools will close because of this. I find that very hard to believe. It's a simple amendment. It is straightforward. I acknowledge there's some controversy, but the intent there is to make these cuts to minimize the impact on our children. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I am going to oppose this amendment. I certainly agree with the theory behind it, but it bothers me to have the word "shall" in there, and I think that leads to all kinds of unintended consequences that will certainly not accomplish what we might want to do and, in the same process, cause some serious damage at the local level. Local school boards, as Senator Stuhr did indicate very well, are elected to look into those local situations. I was looking for an example and I...Senator Bourne "unwittedly" provided me an example that I don't know the answer to and I don't know that you do, but I'll ask it rhetorically, Senator Bourne. You have a school bus that's high mileage, probably bordering on the unsafe, but it's still being used. And I don't know what it costs to replace a school board (sic) but I would guess it's in