

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2003

LB 540

necessarily, of the administrators. But how often have you had this experience, where something that's a change, God forbid we ever make a change in how we do business, and we always have to do it business as usual. If one of us suggests a change, we were deluged with e-mails and phone calls and this. And we've had this happen in the past, and we've gone forward and we've done it, and it has not happened that it's been the end of the world, or end of civilization as we know it. I just want to go back. The constitution itself says that classroom instruction is a priority. My amendment duplicates that. It says that any reductions that we're making to state aid to schools, or TEEOSA, which we are, shall be done, shall be done, in the manner that affects the kids the least. Senator Wehrbein, I appreciate your concerns. And he had a great analogy of about...of the bus. You know, well, if they repair the bus or they make a change that impacts the children, and again, I just want to suggest to you that we've gotten to the point in our state where, again, and I don't want to keep harping on this, but I am going to talk about it some more on Senator Jensen's amendment: Utah, 204 teachers for every administrator; Nebraska, 37 teachers for every administrator. The school bus is not the only thing that we can cut. That's what I'm suggesting. It's a simple amendment. I think it's fair. I think it's reasonable. It duplicates the constitution. It duplicates what the Board of Education has said we should do; minimize the impact on our future, our children. If we adopt this amendment, and it's not in perfect form, I will gladly, if someone can demonstrate that this needs to be changed, I will gladly, I will assist in doing that. I would appreciate your help in protecting the kids of this state and adopting this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the closing. The question then is the adoption of AM1616. All in favor of the amendment vote aye, and opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 28 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is not adopted. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk.