

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

May 8, 2003

LB 540

I don't think that's consistent with the message we're portraying here. The message is that this is, in fact, a fiscally severe situation. We need to restrict spending. Schools are going to, and have been willing, to participate in that. They're going to hold spending increases down. And even without this amendment, there would be an increase in the growth rate back to 2.5 percent once we get into the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...out biennium. That is already provided for in LB 540. With this amendment, that first year growth rate, instead of going to 2.5 percent, would go up, I believe, to...the cost growth factor, I should say, would go up to 6 percent. I think that simply is, again, a fiscal impact that we cannot withstand. It is also inconsistent with the message that we're trying to put out here, and I think one that the schools in the state, the public schools in the state, have accepted. This is something that certainly it's difficult, but it's something that they realize the situation we're in, they are willing to participate on this basis. I would mention also that there is at least a technical point, which may not be important to a lot of people but it is to me, and that is that we have tried very hard, and I think have been successful in our state aid formula, of having a connection...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you. Did you say time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I did, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Sorry. Senator Maxwell, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the Bourne amendment for two reasons. One, as I've said before, if we're going to have a state aid formula, then we should honor it. We should make the promise that we're keeping