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amendment, says that that needs formula will increase at only 0 percent per year, so it's artificially low. And again, my amendment just simply allows us to track what that number would be in the fourth year. Now, will it impact the balance sheet, as Senator Wehrbein...or excuse me, as Senator Raikes mentioned? Absolutely. But again, that's not a real number. We don't have to fund that. It just simply allows us to say, okay, had we left the formula alone, had we left in agreement what we said we would do in terms of state aid, the number would be \$49 million higher in four years than it is today. It doesn't increase our budget, doesn't increase our contribution there. It just simply allows us to track what it would have been. With that, again I'd answer any questions, but I would appreciate your support on the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Raikes, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Bourne had made a number of points that I'd like to respond to. First off, there is a direct definite intentional connection in our school finance mechanism to connect budget authority to needs growth. Now that's the technical point I mentioned last time, but as far as I'm concerned that's absolutely critical. The needs calculation has to reflect as accurately as possible what it is schools can actually do on the spending side. So to...I got the impression that Senator Bourne was thinking that the two are independent, that the growth in needs has nothing to do with spending authority. That is absolutely not the case. At least it's not intended to be the case. And evidence suggests it is not the case. And it's very important that we keep those two connected which is one of the reasons that this is, in my opinion, not a good amendment, not the right way to go. Let me...let me respond a little bit to some of the comments that Senator Maxwell offered. It was interesting, he described this as honest, and at the same time, he says we should not make adjustments in the state aid formula which are there and able...able to be implemented and reflect the current times we're in. For example, there is a budget growth number in the state aid formula, and we can reduce that because we are clearly in a situation where we cannot support the level of