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LB 540

increases in spending that we could in normal times or at least different times. On the other hand, he's saying we should make changes in the formula that make the result look ridiculous, arbitrary changes, changes that cause us to vary from the main concept in the formula that requires us to keep actual spending authority consistent with needs calculation in the formula. To me, I interpret that as directly opposite of honest. That is doing something to try to make a political or other point, but not one that represents good fiscal management. LB 540, the way it is, represents good fiscal management in dire times. I'm not arguing to you that it is easy or simple or convenient for schools to do this. They'd rather not, but they have agreed, given the situation we're in, to do what is being proposed in LB 540. To make this sort of a change, I think definitely weakens our effort to make the signal to schools that that is what we need to do, plus I would argue that it definitely fiscally impacts school aid in the future. Well, I guess, as Senator Maxwell has agreed. He wants to make it look like it's so expensive as to be unreasonable once you get in the out year. Well, if you do this kind of thing and maybe some others, it would look irresponsible. If you don't do this, it is still tough and we may have to make some additional decisions, or additional changes, if you will. In fact, I'm not opposed to that. I've recommended or tried to suggest several changes in the needs calculation. But I think those changes need to be in the direction of being fiscally responsible, not fiscally irresponsible. So with that, again I hope it made it clear again that I oppose this amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, we're talking about state aid and I want to make a crucial point about state aid. It ties in with the larger budget issues we're wrestling with. Actually, I want to drive a stake through the heart of a misconception about state aid, and I'm not picking on anybody because I held this same misconception myself when I came into this body. But I've been watching this formula work for three years on the Education Committee, and it's time to tell the truth about it and it's time for the rest of the body to face up