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LB 540

recognized in the out years, and it's going to have an impact. In essence, it makes...it will make the out year gap larger which will, in essence, impact on our present gap, if you will, and we're going to have to recognize that. So there's a ripple effect that I...even in my mind is difficult to recognize. Senator Raikes, I think, needs to keep driving that point home, but I oppose this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Did you wish to give...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: He may have the rest of my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein and members. We on the Education Committee are a tight group. We hardly ever disagree, as you can see. (Laughter) I'm going to mention this again in response to the handout that...I just wanted to make clear. The handout that Senator Bourne has provided on AM17...should that be AM1757, on this handout?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you asking a question?

SENATOR RAIKES: Just to myself. I'll answer it myself.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I think it should be AM1757. By the way, I apologize, Senator Bourne. I...the amendment yesterday was the Bourne amendment and I...this must be then the "Bourne again" amendment. (Laughter) There is on this graph that came around a flat section which would suggest that school growth has been held flat from the years 2002 to 2005. I think it's obvious that Senator Maxwell did not make this chart. But actually, that's not correct anyway. There has been school growth each of those years. What I'm suggesting to you...so this graph isn't correct. What I'm suggesting to you is that there is growth...a gradual reduction in spending growth in the cost/growth factor that affects the needs calculation, and also affects spending authority for schools currently in LB 540. The way LB 540 is constructed, without this amendment there would be a reduction