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like to engage in a little conversation with him if he would, please.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Heidemann, would you respond, please?

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Heidemann, you had mentioned in your opening remarks that the rural schools that would benefit this was throughout the state of Nebraska, and I'm very proud that you have done that. What is the future for that? Is this going to expand to more rural schools? Because there's going to be more declining populations. Is this a one-time approach or is this looking to the future for several years?

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: As this goes on, and you're right, if you have schools that have declining enrollments or if they're flat now and go into declining, this would pick up and keep them...if not level, stable. It will stop this rapid decline and then you see it go back up again and you go...the wild fluctuations. It will, if not stop it, it will slow it down. So yes, it could affect schools down the road.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: So there would be a real advantage for schools with declining enrollment and especially for the fluctuation in the formula system as to the budgeting process of these schools? So that would have a real advantage also?

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Very much so. I mean, a lot of these schools, when they start their...when they do their budgeting, one year they're up, one year they're down, hire teachers, fire teachers. It's very tough for them, and this would help that out.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay, thank you, Senator Heidemann. And I support his amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, colleagues. As we proceed through this process, I, like all of you, are looking