Rural school funding vote splits Idaho's U.S Representatives

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho U.S. Rep. Raul Labrador is criticizing fellow Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson over a comment Labrador took as a shot at him.

Boise State Public Radio reported (http://bit.ly/1yBlN0a) that Simpson says one would "have to look long and hard to find a reason to vote no" on the Medicare Access Act, which passed 392-37 last week. The law sends millions of federal dollars to rural schools across the country, including Idaho.

Labrador says that Simpson's comment was a criticism aimed directly toward him, who voted against the plan because he thought the Medicare reimbursement portion was too high.

"Mike Simpson has been part of the establishment in Washington D.C. for 12 years," Labrador said. "He loves to have these relationships where it's all about making false promises to his constituents and then going back there to Washington D.C. to compromise."

Labrador went on to point out what he says are differences between him and Simpson.

"We're different kinds of politicians," Labrador said. "I will not lie to my constituents. I won't say something in my campaign that is totally different than what I do during my time as a member of Congress."

Simpson, who is considered a moderate Republican, is often at odds with Labrador, the tea party favorite who makes up the other half of Idaho's delegation to the U.S. House.

"This isn't the first time Congressman Labrador has uttered this nonsense and I'm sure it won't be the last," said Simpson's communications director Nikki Wallace in a statement.

Copyright 2015 The Associated Press