

that we don't spend enough money at the state level when we have a budget that is going to be most likely well over \$880 million. It's hard to understand what is the proper level of funding for education for faculty salaries. I suppose, even myself, I would be willing to support a measure like this, the \$2.2 million in additional funding, if we could forego a tax increase. But, unfortunately, we are going to have to have a tax increase to fund these particular measures and that's what I hope you will be thinking about when you do cast your vote for this additional funding to the university. As I pointed out in an earlier amendment when I tried to reduce the size of the university's budget by \$1.7 million, that the university system came into the Appropriations Committee requesting an additional appropriation in their cash funds for their loss of cash funds through tuition, reduction in the amount of cash funds they are receiving through tuition of approximately \$1.7 million because of enrollment declines. And I can assure you that in the future, from the studies I have seen as well as, I am sure, your own knowledge, there is a reduction in the amount of students that we are going to be having at the college age for at least the next 5, possibly the next 10 years, and then it's supposed to level off. But we are going to be faced with that challenge year after year where we are giving the university more money in spite of the fact that they have fewer and fewer students to deal with. Now the university probably could have said, we are going to take this \$1.7 million and give it to faculty salaries for their increase. But we don't really know where that money is going to be going, if it's going to go back to the university for business as usual. We did give them additional money. They are having an increase in their budget in spite of the fact that enrollment is declining. The university administration, in their wisdom, as well as the Board of the Regents, chose not to use that money for a supplemental pay increase for faculty members in addition to the 3 percent salary increase we are giving them this year. I urge you to think about these particular points, the fact that enrollment is declining at the university system. Number two, that a tax increase will surely result with this additional measure. And, finally, that we show just a little bit of restraint in this budget. I know some are saying that the budget is busted and that it doesn't really make any difference at this point in time because the Governor is going to come back and veto this spending measure and we are going to have to face probably an additional fourth debate on this issue when we have the veto override attempts. So I would urge you to avoid that and vote against the amendment. Thank you.