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LB 401

has been in three major entitlement programs: Medicaid, public assistance, and special ed. So I think we need to look at this that revenue has continued to grow, continued to grow year after year. When we got into trouble was when our expenditures were growing faster than what our revenue increases were. And now is the time I think if you look at some of those figures and realize that over a 3-year period our revenues increased 17.7 percent and that the projections are that they will maintain that growth not in 3 or 5 years out, but in the next 2 that we were looking at and the trends that are there, it doesn't show any decreases. There is no real good information that would show us that there would be decreases and there would only be a continued somewhat increase. Will it be clear up to the 5.9 or that we really don't know.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, time, Senator.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Senator Will.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I've listened with great intent with the debate that's been going on on the floor. I wasn't sure how I was going to vote on this amendment and I've tried to give full attention to what's been discussed. I think the arguments are overwhelmingly against the adoption of this amendment. I think Senator Wickersham, Senator Landis, Senator Beutler, and others, Senator Vrtiska have made excellent arguments about why a permanent deeper cut on our income tax doesn't make sense. That those who are the wealthiest among us that have the highest income would receive the highest break doesn't make sense in light of a number of issues. First off, the question I think all of us should be asking ourselves is we've been sent here by our districts to represent them. What do the people want? If you look at the election in 1996, the answer to that question and come back, they want income tax cuts or was the answer that they want property tax cuts? If you just think back a few months, you'll remember that the whole issue in the U.S. Senate campaign seemed to hinge on the question of property tax relief. If you look at those of us who got involved in the initiatives that would have had a constitutional amendment dealing with