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FLOOR DEBATE

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one get more? Should this one get less? So I have no problem with this idea of, well, we think we should take some from here and put it over there. I disagree with this maneuver as a matter of public policy, but I just want to point out that I don't...that was the proposal that was before us in the committee and I was ready to vote for that bill that would have clearly delineated these funds, and then left it for the Legislature to work it out in the democratic process and policymaking as to which fund should get how much money. I...I disagree with this approach just because we seem to have sort of loaded up and made PEAP bear the whole...almost the whole brunt of it. For that reason, I will be voting no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Call the question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yours is the last light on. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, to state what this amendment does, it cuts...it reinstates the 3 percent cut that the Governor mentioned. If, as Senator Maxwell suggested might be a way to do it, we took a 3 percent cut across the board, that would mean all of that money from all three programs simply was gone, available to no students. By taking the 3 percent cut from PEAP, that is the 3 percent cut in that program the Governor recommended, but it was not just taken away and evaporated. Part went into the SAP program, the other half went to the SSAP program, and the students who had access to PEAP have access to these two programs still. So no money was actually lost. Were it not done this way, we would still have one program available only to private school students. So I hope you will adopt this amendment, and I'm going to say again in this close what I had said earlier. I am not interested after this point in doing anything further with PEAP. When I talked about attacking the program on Select and Final Reading, that was if we didn't get the 3 percent cut. If that which I said I was seeking has been achieved, I have no need to do anything further. So I'm asking that we do adopt this