

this person?

SENATOR WESELY: We put the money...then we put the money in the A bill, then Governor Orr said, well, we've added enough money to the budget, they should be able to fund this with a reallocation.

SENATOR WITHEM: So in her veto message of the A bill language, she indicated that this is one of the priorities that they should do with their General Fund budget.

SENATOR WESELY: That's right. She did not veto the bill, but she vetoed the funding because she thought the money would be there, and then we tried to see if that could happen, and they said no. So...

SENATOR WITHEM: What was their rationale for not funding a program that the Legislature had created?

SENATOR WESELY: They said that they had other commitments and they couldn't reallocate. We tried to get private money from ConAgra and other groups, and we couldn't find it. Senator Moore and I both worked on that. We just couldn't get it done. They were not cooperating.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah. I guess my comments are more at a system, and this may be a more appropriate speech around LB 247 than around anything else. But it troubles me with the university particularly, after the Exon decision, it appears as though things that they want to do they put in their mainline budget; things that they don't particularly want to do, then they come to the Legislature asking for additional money for. All other state agencies, when the Legislature creates a program and mandates a program, they have to find money out of that budget. They can't come back in and say, hey, sorry, we just ran out of money before we could create this program. And this troubles me. I guess it doesn't have a whole lot to say about Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, whether it's a good amendment or a bad amendment. But the process is really a mind-boggling one that we have an agency of state government to which we appropriate close to \$200 million, as I understand, I was looking for the exact number in here, and out of that they do exactly what they want to do, and any priorities that the Legislature sets have to be funded above and beyond that by select programs coming out of the Appropriations Committee or by