

allure of lotteries and why they are so appealing to so many people because we simply have more wants and desires than we have abilities and resources to meet those needs and desires. And so we look for different ways to accomplish the goals that we share. Raising taxes is clearly one that is a goal that nobody has, and that we know in politics how detrimental it is to even suggest the idea of that option. So we search for fee increases, and adjustments here, and changes there, all with the ultimate goal of trying to have more money so we can do more of the things that I think most people would agree we should be doing, but simply are unable to under the budget constraints we face. And so I think the better way to go is, again understanding my deep concern about lotteries and whether or not they are a direction that we ought to take in this state, it still makes more sense to me to place education as a priority but leave the door open for other options, and we will take a look at it. But I can tell you this, whatever we do, if the lottery bill passes, if it is adopted, and then we see it implemented, we will never have enough money in a lottery to meet the demands that are pent up and awaiting resources. We simply will never be able to meet, through the lottery or any other mechanism like it, the different pressures that are being placed on us to do more for people with very limited resources. So it is just a lesson, a case example again, of what pressures we face down here in this Legislature and they are here day in and day out, year in and year out. It won't change, it never will. We will never have the resources we need and want to do all that we would like to do, but the lottery will help in some ways, and better that we open the door and then consider further in the future what our options are, than to make those decisions now and lock ourselves in. So I do support the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Will, on the amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I, too, rise in support of the Hall amendment, and in case you have not been listening, what we have been engaging in as we discuss the lottery issue is, essentially, two different debates going on side by side. On the one hand, we talk about a lottery, we talk about the types of games that are going to be included in a lottery, and we talk about the propriety of the state being involved in lottery. And on the other hand, we talk about what we are going to use the lottery money for, and it is almost random depending on, you know, one amendment comes along and we