

budget as it now stands, we're talking about a 2 percent across-the-board in all agencies, and a lot of agencies have not come in and told us what they're going to do exactly. And it would be my guess that come the first of July we're going to hear a lot more about things like this that are going to harm some senators districts, and they're going to want similar language like this. And, as you know, next year, in the present budget, we're talking about an additional 1 percent. And there will be more of these type of things going on. And so I just have the concern about putting these sort of criteria in intent language. I guess that I prefer that Senator Wesely would get a letter to this effect, that I would sign it with him, and to find out exactly what is going on and what is an absolute that can be said yes to. But I think actually putting it in intent language like this I have a little concern with. So, with that, I'd, oh, kind of indifferently ask the body to vote against Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Next speaker is Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Just a couple of notes. Going back, not too many years ago, I remember, actually I think it was my first year here, the Board of Regents made a difficult decision, they had to reduce the budget, so they decided at that particular point that they would close the campus at Curtis. And members of the body that have been here for a while remember that the final end result of that was a political decision, fueled, basically, by agriculture and those of us in the western part of the state where the Legislature ended up saying, no, we don't want to close that, we're not going to. And what that sent was a message to the Board of Regents. We'd said all along that we wanted them to make the tough decisions. We wanted them to do what was right, and we wanted them to decide where they would cut. When they decided where they were going to cut, then we criticized and said, no, no, you can't do that. And, of course, once you begin setting that precedent and begin doing that, agencies and other groups begin saying, well, why should we make the decision to cut anything. If it gets difficult and it's a tough decision, there are going to be people that are upset, and if the Legislature is simply going to overturn us every time, there is no incentive for us to stick our necks out whatsoever. And I think about that and it reminds me of this particular issue as well. This is not any...this is not something that the