

where we draw the number, Board of Regents, it is indeed your job to distribute that in the manner that you think is fair.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I would rise also in support of the Ashford amendment, although it may be a little bit unclear exactly what the situation is in that regard. But what I would like to argue, just for a few minutes, is that the overall budget that's been presented by the committee, which I think again has gone through a lot of work and effort and I want to praise the committee as far as that goes but, in my brief analysis of it, it seems to me, at least from the information I've been able to gather, from the information that's been released by the committee, that state agencies and state appropriations have suffered to some degree at the expense of state aid that we have seen increases in state aid to a far greater degree than we have seen increases in state operations. Looking at some of the figures, what I am being told is that state aid increases 5.2 percent next year, 6.8 percent the following year, but that doesn't include the teachers' salary bill which is anticipated to pass and that would bring the overall increase in state aid closer to 9 percent. At the same time, in terms of state operations, I'm being told that the increase is at 1.2 percent for the next fiscal year and 5.4 percent for the following year. If you adjust, I guess, some other figures, this is all a little bit complicated but if you don't include the 16.9 million from Commonwealth, you're talking more like a 3.9 percent increase and I'm not sure exactly how that all fits out but I'm trying to be fair in summarizing it. But what it appears to me is that...that state agencies and state operations are taking a hit that isn't necessarily being shared by state aid, that local subdivisions and other state aid programs that we have in place have not suffered at the knife of budget cuts that...that the state operations have, one example being the fight I just fought not too many minutes ago dealing with Whitehall and the closing of that campus. And there will be other proposals to shut down educational...vocational education at the Corrections office and who knows what other cuts may occur in different state operations. So I'm making the argument that we have had a shift here in emphasis away from state operations and to state aid, and as much as I can get a hold of the budget overall, the big picture tells me that we need to shift back a little bit, that if we want to balance this thing out, we need to apply more