

agriculture and Senator Moore and others disagree with some of them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Senator Ashford, you're next.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I'm hopeful that we are close to reaching some sort of accommodation on this matter so that we can get on with the agenda. I just for the record would just reiterate that there is a great deal of consistency within the budgeting process that we have gone through within the committee and out here in the approach that hopefully will be taken on this bill which is to adopt a scaled back ADC for pregnant mothers program to three months prior to pregnancy (sic). As we've gone through the budget, there are many other programs which the committee took a hard look at and obviously it's much more difficult to make programmatic changes or cuts than it is to make across-the-board cuts. And though across-the-board cuts are attractive because they are simple, that may be, in many cases, the only real positive thing about them. Inasmuch as, and we can see by, as we get into programmatic cuts, especially in programs that have a direct impact on our citizens that they can be extremely difficult and especially difficult when we're trying to accomplish them in a special session. There are other programs that the committee was able to take cuts in and still maintain. Some of the examples are the, the primary example is the wards of the court program wherein the committee adopted the approach that Senator Moore and I had proposed last year to maintain the wards of the court program for children who are educated in institutions, but to cut out that part of the program where individuals, where children are living within a foster home setting. And again, that's a programmatic cut. That's a program that directly impacts on children. It's a program that directly impacts on a program which has been of long standing, in fact, the program, the wards of the court program was adopted about the time, maybe a little earlier, than the program for the nine months of ADC payments to pregnant mothers. So I think it is a very responsible thing for the committee to have done and I...and though the committee did not adopt the compromise that we're looking at here, certainly, as we have suggested, Senator Moore and I did introduce this compromise, or Senator Moore introduced it and I cosponsored it last year, and we did have some discussion about it in the committee that possibly we should go to a three-month level rather than to cut out the program altogether. So there are certainly sound policy reasons for