

this is a revolving fund request. It's not a General Fund appropriation, Senator Chambers. We denied both the deficit amount and the expansion funding for the next biennium in order to bring up some of the issues that we've talked about today. Our concern about lack of oversight and control was justified when we were informed that the deficit was imminent. The committee then reconsidered the decision on the original deficit funding but the reconsideration proved insufficient in light of the extent of the problem. The necessary deficit amount was then discovered to be double the original request or \$750,000. And the deficit bill which is usually adopted in May was not soon enough to address the immediacy of the problem. So the committee voted to hold a special hearing and Senator Wehrbein scheduled that in the midst of all our other deliberations. Members of the committee asked the same kinds of thorough questions that I think have characterized our entire hearing process. And each of the issues that was raised during that hearing were questions that the committee had raised in their Executive Session discussions of the situations, many of the same issues that have been raised on the floor today. Throughout the entire process of dealing with SOS and in spite of the efforts of Senator Wehrbein to remedy the situation, I don't think the committee was treated with the respect and cooperation that they needed. But despite this, the committee voted almost unanimously to bring this bill to the floor and to provide resolution to this issue. Because as Senator Wehrbein has said, we have examined all the other options and they are not good options. This is not to deny some of the problems that have gone along, but the other options are not good options. So I would strongly urge you to follow the lead of Senator Wehrbein and the Appropriations Committee, have some faith that we have done the job that we are supposed to do and vote to advance this bill. We are talking about revolving funds. We have come, as Senator Maurstad said, to a lot of good conclusions as a result of our process and please have some faith in that process.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Pedersen. Pardon me, Senator Pedersen. We do have an amendment pending. You will be the first one recognized after the introduction of the amendment. Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my motion is to strike the emergency clause. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question.