

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Will voting yes. Senator Schimek voting yes. Senator Jensen voting yes. Senator Day voting yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 7 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR CROSBY: Debate does cease. I will raise the call. Senator Avery, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR AVERY: Well, I suppose I'll have to now. (Laughter.) Thank you, Madam President. In listening to the comments, it's kind of interesting because it's put out and sounded like we're completely cutting everything out of their budget. That, in case...that, in fact, isn't happening. We are providing for a 6 percent. That's a small 4 percent reduction over what they are...were currently provided in the appropriation budget. That's over the biennium. In terms of the university and the state colleges are still getting a 3.5 percent each year which in terms of the size I think, and I appreciate Senator Wickersham's comments, I think we have to look at and allow them to make those decisions. Sure, there are things in there and I think they could still be funded, those programs. They're going to fund them the way they want. We just give them a lump sum. I'm saying we have to be fiscally responsible. We have to see what the taxpayers are and listen to the taxpayers. The other day we had the hearing by the Revenue Committee. I listened. They say, the people that testified said that we have to be an example set forth. We asked for their help and what I've heard time in and time out is cut state spending. This is one attempt. If we don't, likely the Governor will veto, and the words will come down from all of those that the Legislature is no good, they can't deal with things, we might as well find another way of doing it, be it the petition process. So at some time we have to take the ball and run with it. We have to be responsible in terms of potentially forcing the university, maybe the state colleges to relook at their program and see what areas they can make some cuts in. They are still getting a 3 percent increase in terms of the university budget. In terms of the state college, they're getting a 3.5 percent increase. The university is decreasing in its enrollment, from what I've been told. The state college system is increasing. The dollars will go out to them and they will be able to work within that. So I guess I ask for your support and consideration in terms of what needs to be done. We can start it now in saying that the