

districts but nothing on state government and that is really concerning to the constituents, it's concerning to me also. There are two types of ways to come up with a budget. If you're on a fixed income, you have a dollar figure that is up there. That's all there is and so you must manage somehow to stay within that dollar figure. Then you have entities like governments and school districts that will sometimes go to their people and everybody turns in their wish list and then you come up with that and then you go back to the taxpayers as we do here in the state and say this is what we have to have. And that is...if we had a limit, then you have a dollar figure at the top that says this is as high as you can go. The constituents, the citizens of the state, they can do their budgeting and then it's up to the state to bring everything back underneath that dollar figure. I'm so concerned about the State of Nebraska here where we have state employees that are growing faster and faster every hour. We add them here in the Legislature, yet...you know, I just pulled out the Nebraska Labor Market information which you all got at your desk. The civilian labor force in Nebraska is 890,000 people. Yet within state government alone we have over 17,400 people. Figure that out, figure that out, Senators. We have 1,600,000 people. We have 870,000 people on the civilian work force and we have over 100,000, maybe 110,000 public employees in this state. We're out of balance. We're out of whack. We just cannot keep doing that, and so to come up with a lid, be it 4 percent like Senator Jones and I signed onto, or a lid like Senator Warner's, I just think we have to do that. We have to maintain ourselves on a strict budget or we're going to be losing people out of the state. Every person that moves out of the state, then there's one less to pay taxes so we just have to do that. I would certainly encourage Senator Warner to put his bill in next year. I would cosign it. I would be happy to support him in it but we just must get a control on this. I'll turn it back over to Senator Jones.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Yes, Senator Jensen, thank you, and I just want to say, reiterate again the reason we did this is because it's hard to go back out in your local district and do anything without saying we're going to do something down here so I know they're all going to be asking me that, but with Senator Warner's bill being introduced just ahead of ours and it's proved not germane, at this time I'd like to respectfully withdraw mine.