

maximize the use of what is hopefully limited funding for their activities, and then rely on legislative oversight to make sure that the intent is being fairly carried out, but I am very reluctant to take that flexibility away. I think it's going to be an approach that we're going to have to extend. I can recall many years ago we used to earmark virtually the whole budget in Social Services by every program on the assumption we were controlling how it was being used, and in the process, we actually ended up spending more money and less effectively, and finally went to much more of a lump sum, giving the agency and the director the kind of flexibility that was needed to make the most effective use and provide the services where they were most needed, not be bound by a very restrictive budget discretion, even though the total funds may have been adequate, but individual amounts may not have been. But I would urge to... I appreciate the position, and I certainly understand the desire to support the regions, but I suspect we are in a transition. I suspect that LB 1059 bill this year that we did not act on beyond General File is going to be back in some form, and that some of those things I expect to see happen, and I think we may as well start that process by allowing that flexibility for the Director of DPI, and it may well be that the bulk of the funds will end up at the regions, in any event, as Senator Wehrbein has pointed out, but I'd just... I would urge the body to give careful thought to a process I think we are going to use more and more, and that is greater flexibility as we begin to look for ways to be more cost-efficient.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Vrtiska

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Wehrbein, just a couple of questions, if I might.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein, do you yield to a question?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Wehrbein, in this... in this veto, these funds, where do those funds go, the federal dollars, where do they go if they don't go to the program that they were taken out of?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, these were earmarked for... originally earmarked for community-based programs. If we remove the