

January. And then we can, through oversight, look at what they've done, look at the results, and then on the next biennial budget, the Legislature will come back and say, this is what our recommendations will be. But let's give them the flexibility at this point, and so that's why I will be voting no on this particular portion.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I think that one of the messages that will be heard relative to the actions taken by the Legislature this year is the need for stronger partnerships between state and local governments. If a number of the efforts that we've adopted this year are going to be successful, we have to begin to look at all of us being in the same ship and local government in cooperation and partnership with the state government working together to meet the common objectives that have been outlined in a number of various areas. I see that being important in this particular issue in that we need to maintain as much of a partnership as we've developed so far. We need to make sure that we don't concentrate all of the authority and all of the decision-making within the confines of the state administrative system, and that as we continue to move forward in trying to improve areas such as mental health, such as the delivery of other health and human services, I think an emphasis needs to continue to be that we develop strong local-state partnerships and so that we have a better chance of using the talent at the local level with the talent that is at the state level to come up with the best answers possible. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Seeing no further lights, Senator Wehrbein to close on the motion to override.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, very briefly, I just simply suggest that the ear...removing or restoring the earmark assures that the money will go to community-based mental health programs for adults and children. It simply avoids...sends the message that we want to emphasize community-based programs. We've started on that line and we want to continue that. If you vote no on this, potentially it sends a message that we are going to...that we are going to deemphasize community-based programs potentially. It does leave it up to the director, and