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FLOOR DEBATE

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going to...mandated to continue to provide the services. And so eliminating nonemergency dental, we funded that. I think some of that was in the Health and Human Services Committee. I'll let them speak to that if they care to. On public assistance, the state ward education is a significant amount of money. If we do not fund that, that falls back on local school districts. So there will be no free lunch. Somebody will pay. If it isn't at the state level, i.e., sales and income tax primarily, it's going to be local either jurisdictions picking those costs up or hospitals and so forth absorbing more of those costs. And our committee, just like Health and Human Services Committee, I'm sure gets many of those issues in front of them about those that are not served and those that are sacrificing to serve in many cases. May not be sympathy for it; in some cases maybe there is. But that is part of the explanation as to why we have that gap because, believe me, somebody will pay. Property taxes are also high in this state by many people's standards, and that's a dilemma and I don't have the answer to that, but I think you need to keep that in mind as...and I really realize all of you understand that. I'm just reminding you. If we...we can go the way of the Governor, but...and that will be an option to take those cuts, but it will impact property tax. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Erdman, on AM1111.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, first of all, let me rise and say that I appreciate the work that's been done by the Appropriations Committee. I really do. Having not had the opportunity to serve on that committee but to go through the work with them on some bills over the past two years since I've been elected, they due diligence and, unfortunately, I think we're going to disagree on some of the provisions that are in their bill...or in their amendment. I'm tempted...I don't see him, there he is, I'm tempted to yield to Senator Brashear because I think Senator Brashear is making some good points, and I think the part of the discussion that is going on today and I hope continues is one of reality. The reality of what we're doing today sets forth in motion what we're going to be dealing with two years from now or potentially even later on this summer, as Senator Chambers has