

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003

LB 407

And I understand that maybe the cutting the funding is fairly abrupt. It would be...but, once again, there has been, you might say, notification of this for a few months and there is opportunity, hopefully, for some outside funding to continue this if they would care to do that. This is...we did not introduce legislation, which we could have done. We did not do that, and so I want to reiterate what Senator Pederson said is that it shows how difficult it is to stop funding issues. And we've had other amendments or other proposals and other committees, some of which were carried forth, and some which were not. But I guess I'm making comment for those that didn't...that are bothered by the gap. And even though this is a fairly small amount, we also cut many agencies \$10,000, \$20,000, \$40,000. We cut several agencies. And relatively speaking, it was very severe because they were smaller agencies, too. So the little dollars add up to the big dollars eventually, and I just want to remind the body of that, that I don't know any other solution. But for those of you that are bothered with the gap and have voted accordingly, realize that this is an opportunity to do some...and reenforced on the cutting, if that's what you will, and this shows how difficult it is in our committee to do these things for those comments that were made yesterday. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Just very quickly, felt I should weigh in on this issue. Vertical cuts are extremely difficult, but across-the-board cuts are bleeding our agencies to death. So we have to make some of those vertical cuts in order to save some of the other things that we do. And as Senator Wehrbein and Senator Pederson said, this, you aren't seeing every cut because there are hundreds of them that we agonized over, and they are employees that have direct services. We had to cut funding in agencies that were getting 3 to 1 and 4 to 1 federal matches for direct services to disabled people, for other direct services provided, and it's difficult for all of us to have to say that something that we've had for a long time is something that is going to have to be on