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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003      LB 407

the chopping block. And it was with a lot of agony that we went through the budget, every single piece at a time, but the vertical cuts do have to happen, and it's a prioritization process. And so I am going to be opposing both of these amendments for that reason. We have to...we're being, as an Appropriations Committee, we're being kind of battered around because our budget isn't close enough not to need revenue. Well, we're going to need revenue, but we prioritized education funding. We prioritized health and human services type functions ahead of things like this advocacy agency because we have to make the serious cuts, and we know we can't make it all up with taxes. And so we wouldn't be talking about these things if we weren't broke, simple fact of the matter. This is a prioritization process for me, and so I'll be opposing both of these amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Thompson. There are no further persons wishing to speak at this time. Senator Schimek, you'd be recognized to close.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members, again, the amendment is an amendment to the Chambers amendment which cuts from the two year funding in his amendment down to one year's funding for this coming year. And the reason that I introduced the amendment is because I had of a sense that the two years was not going to wash and that I think it would be the fair thing to do to continue the funding for one more year, so that that agency has a chance to explore other ways to keep themselves going. And by that, I mean private monies. You know, there has been some talk on this floor about what the commission has done, and I don't think we really know what the commission has done over the years. They have been an advocacy agency. They have been an advisory agency to the Governor and to the Legislature. And they have helped the women in this state in innumerable ways, innumerable. I can remember when women didn't have inheritance rights, for goodness sakes. I can remember when women couldn't get a credit card in their own name, for heaven sakes, even though they contributed to the family income, even though they may have paid all the bills for the family, they may have been the accountant for the family, even though, even though, even though. I could not get a credit