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LB 283, 407

session. Very quickly, we're going to have to get moving and start making some decisions about matters involving revenue. I was astounded when I heard members of this Legislature on the floor say we hadn't talked about cuts. I don't know where they were when LB 407 was introduced. Maybe they didn't read it. But we have spent three and a half months in the Appropriations Committee going through all of these matters and trying to determine what the needs are of the state and keep our programs viable and still make appropriate cuts. So we did this in LB 407. As Senator Wehrbein has said, we weren't given a whole lot of help on this floor if somebody had a concern about these proposals. And what I'm concerned about is I see constantly letters to the editor saying cut that wasteful spending. I hear it on the floor at the same time. Nobody tells us what it is. Where is that spending that they don't want? One of the things that we have to consider is the fact that we do have a committee structure in this Legislature. I respect the work of the Revenue Committee. I think that they have the opportunity to hear the good and the bad side of doing certain acts in connection with revenue, and I respect that. I respect the Education Committee going through the matters affecting the education process to know that they are going to view the needs of the state educationally and, yet, make it something that we can all work with. Now, I think it's important that we start focusing on the fact that we are meeting today to start talking about a revenue package. We're talking about a revenue package to bring the necessary revenue to operate the state, and I think it's all done and I think we have to start bringing it together because we are getting very short on this time. I know a number of people who are speaking their heart when they say that they're very much in favor of earmarking funds to meet a worthwhile object, and I do understand that. But on the other hand, I don't think that's the appropriate way to be doing this. I think that we should be putting it into the General Funds of the state and we should be determining how to allocate those monies in order to meet the needs. And I just think that we can't do this piecemeal. I remember when I was first on the Appropriations Committee, I think it was the first session, and we brought a budget forth like LB 407, and we thought we had made substantial cuts. Well, then someone got up to talk about a needy subject, like disabilities or people who are in need of