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LB 407

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. As I was saying this morning, I oppose this amendment and a lot of it has to do with I'm not...unsure of the impact of what many of these cuts are going to be, and so I, in order to adequately analyze them, even over the noonhour, have gotten some analysis. But as I started out talking about the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council and the Attorney General, the depth of those cuts, Health and Human Services cuts, I'm going to go on down to the Library Commission, which is a very...seems like a very modest amount, \$100,000, but we have really stripped the...a lot of the value of the Library Commission statewide in the last few years in cuts. And these are outreach to people, libraries, all over the state that depend...that whose clients depend on their access to information technology, computers and things like that. We have long felt that this money spent was very needed and, even though it is a fairly modest amount of cut, it becomes a very serious damage to this agency. I'm a little bit surprised at the restoration of funds for the Status of Women. I think we as a body voted earlier that this was a reasonable cut to make. I still believe it is. Many in our committee do, many in our committee, not all. But I am a little disappointed to see the restoration back here considering I do have an amendment coming up a little bit later that will give them authority to spend a little more cash funds that they have. I'm not sure where the Correctional Services is, the \$3.5 million. I don't know if Senator Erdman...would you answer a question?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Erdman, are you in the Chamber?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Did he? Is that the county jail? Okay. If that's what...

SPEAKER BROMM: I don't see him, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, if that's what it is. If it's...they say it's the county jail reimbursement, which is \$7 million, and obviously that goes back on property tax if we don't keep our commitments there. And I think it's important to remember that we've cut the counties very seriously anyway. The property tax relief bill we passed, which reduced their...that particular issue to zero. We've cut their state aid quite severely. So