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LB 407

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...have a spending problem and they don't want to give us Medicaid money. Take away the mandates of our Medicaid, we can cut our budget enormously. So \$205 million of our \$161 million increase is 100 percent Medicaid, and the only reason I bring that up, think where that's going to lead to us in ten years. If that part of our budget goes up 15 to 20 percent, you can't cut the rest of our budget enough to make yourselves whole and not raise taxes or whatever we're going to have to do. That's long-term nursing home care and I have all the breakdown here for that. And go back to the Health and Human Services cuts that are suggested in this, which I think are draconian. Even the Governor, even the Governor didn't take additional cuts in Health and Human Services. We did that because we wanted to see where that money was going. We wanted to prove to ourselves that they needed that money, because we've had many people coming in and tell us, the morale is low, we're overloaded, we're having increased workloads and you've taken away people,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...which we have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Mossey, Bromm, Jones, Beutler, and others.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to I guess begin, as many have, by thanking Senator Erdman for bringing forth a new idea, something that we can spend some time today talking about, and certainly I wouldn't want to leave out the Appropriations Committee and the Revenue Committee for all the work they've done through this length of time and the hours they've put in to try to come up with something that we could put together to satisfy not only ourselves but the people of this state, because, after all, that's the bottom line. I have to tell you that I can't agree with everything in...I haven't agreed with everything in the Appropriations Committee and haven't agreed to everything that Senator Erdman has come out. And the reason I say that is