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LB 407

think we need to thank the Appropriations Committee, as well as the committee Chairs and others who have directed us to this point, because, as I alluded to throughout the day, that there's nothing in my proposal that is substantial that didn't come from between my two ears. It came from the thought and the hard work of every committee in this Legislature. And I think that the sooner we find that middle ground as a...whether it be a number, whether it be a program, whatever that might be, the sooner we come to that middle ground, the better we're going to do as far as managing exactly what the priorities of the state are. What I've asked the body to listen to today in my amendment are essentially what I've heard the body say in other debate, as well as what I believe are sound principles for priorities. There are things in this amendment that don't give me a lot of enjoyment. And there are things, like the county jail reimbursement, that are probably at the top of my list to find a way to figure out how do we not do that, or how do we find the money to do what we need to do to make sure that the Supreme Court and the work that is done there within our justice system is funded. And the simple answer, to me, is, you find it from somewhere else, but you try and hold the bottom line. Because if we just continue to add back and add back and add back, we're back to where we are under LB 407 as amended with the committee amendment. We do have a gap between what the committee has before us, and if all of the revenue that is out there would pass, we still have a gap. And so the question is, how do we resolve that? Part of my intent for introducing this amendment is to show that there are opportunities for us to save money. There are tough decisions. But if we're serious about the priorities that I've heard members speak about, of K-12, of higher ed, of the scholarship programs, if we're serious about that, we should be serious about being able to stand up and say, well, we took the money from this program for education, or we took the money from this area for that. AM1763, as introduced, is not perfect. Never claimed that it was. It is an effort to find the middle ground. If there are amendments that need to be offered to resolve some of the concerns, I'm open to that. If there is a need to sit down and find that compromise, I'm open to that. But I would rather that we do it today than either 12 days from now, pushing on the adjournment or, more importantly, I would rather not do it in June. I think the sooner we can