

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 407

is the case that there was some carry-over money from the previous year that was not spent that may be funding some programs in that area this year, but there is no appropriation for that fund in the current fiscal year. So in effect, the Appropriations Committee's recommendation would begin a new program, if you will, or funding... a new funding stream for this program in the upcoming biennium. My argument to you is simply that we cannot afford to do this at this time. I have no argument that these programs are meritorious and beneficial, but that's the environment we're in. We simply are going to have to do away with some things that are meritorious, because we don't have the money to do everything. This, I would argue, is certainly outside that narrow focus that we need to attend to at this particular time. So I don't know that I need to say a lot more at this time. I would simply argue that this is \$6 million. This takes the \$353 million number down \$6 million. And I think for most of you, that is a move in the right direction. I would also argue that, tough as this one is to do away with, I don't think you're going to find anything that you're going to be, on the whole, more agreeable to. I think it's very important that we make this particular move. And I urge you to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on AM1802. Senator Brown...she's not in the room, is she? Senator Brown waives her opportunity. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in enthusiastic support of what Senator Raikes is offering as an opportunity here. We're at that point. We've been talking about how we can cut deeper. It is clear that the will of the body is to cut deeper. We are talking here \$6 million of General Fund money for a program that has not yet begun. We are existing and living without this program. Its purposes are correct and noble and right. Its objective is something we all, or almost all, support. But we have not yet started the program. Theoretically at least, we don't even know if it will work. This is advertising to encourage young people not to take up smoking. It's not like it's a message that has never ever been heard before. This is \$6 million that we can save. And this begins the process of making a cut. And during the course