

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

blind, we're cutting programs for the disabled, we're cutting all kinds of programs. There is really nothing in my mind that suggests that this has any more merit than a large number of programs that we are actually cutting, and that's why the Appropriations Committee dealt with it in the way that it did. It didn't deal with it particularly onerously. It treated it like a large number of other programs that are for low income and people who need help. And it would be good if we could do everything, but I think you should understand that this is, in my opinion at least, not categorically or in any way particularly different from a bunch of other things that we've had to hurt to some extent. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Thompson, on the Brashear amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, Senator Wehrbein isn't on the floor and so that's one of the reasons I put my light on, just to explain to you the process of the Appropriations Committee on all the aid programs. All the aid programs are cut 10 percent, unless the Governor recommended more than 10 percent. We probably took that. But we did a 10 percent for all of them. Clearly, if I were voting, I'd want to put this money back in, but as a member of the Appropriations Committee we had to draw the line and that's the methodology that we used for this and a lot of other programs that absolutely break my heart. But these are aid programs and they were all treated similarly. And there's nothing that I...well, there are a lot of things that I think that were on that list, this is certainly one of them, that just make me sick that we did make the cut, but I just want to make the body aware of the methodology used by the Appropriations Committee. Wasn't trying to single out early childhood education. There's a long list of aid programs and those...a lot of those programs are very meritorious, as Senator Beutler said. But since...oh, he's back. Senator Wehrbein, do you want...I'm just explaining the methodology we used on cutting the aid programs. You were off the floor when this amendment came up and I didn't know if you wanted. I didn't want to speak for you, but I felt that we needed to explain what we did. And I'd yield any time that you would...