

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

needed to do that in order to come down to a budget amount that we could work with. And this is a very good program, but so were many of the other programs, and I just think that it further exemplifies the difficulties of making cuts. So I would suggest that I'm going to reluctantly have to oppose this proposal by Senator Brashear, not because I don't think it's a good proposal, but because I think we on the Appropriations Committee have done what we could to try to hold the line. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I'm going to oppose this amendment. I was looking through here, especially the Department of Education, of all the lesser cuts that we take, \$39,000, \$18,000, \$20,000. We even cut \$10,000 out of aid to humanities, if I recall. We did away with the mileage for humanities speakers. I simply can't go in the scheme of things. It's...in the scheme of things, many people feel we've been somewhat fair simply because we've taken these cuts from everybody. We've let out very few from cuts. And if nothing else, I'd have to oppose this amendment on that basis. Certainly it's a very, very worthwhile program, but so are the other hundreds within our budget that I think would deserve additional funding if you use the rationale that it ought to be supported. We are making severe cuts. I hope the body, after our debate this morning, understands. I am fearful the public doesn't understand, but we are making serious, serious cuts in our education system and I'm going to offer some more. If that's where we're going to go, then that's where we have to go, to education. And so even though this is not enormous amount of money in the scheme of things...I assume it's a half, 233, is that right...I cannot support it at this point because we can find many others that are every bit as worthwhile and I don't think we need to...we cannot start going there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Brown, on the Brashear amendment to LB 407.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, in response to Senator