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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

Bromm's questions, the Governor's...the Governor recommended a 5 percent cut because this was a priority area, and it's a priority area because of some of the statistics that Senator Brashear mentioned in terms of special education and juvenile incarceration. But most especially I think for the Governor it was around some of the mental health issues and that this has been shown to be particularly effective. And it's a very narrow line that we walk that has to do with funding of services for problems that exist right now and the kinds of things that we can do, especially for young children, that are going to keep them from needing expensive services later on. And so I will be supporting the Brashear amendment. Even though it is adding money, it is adhering to a recommendation from the administration about a priority about dealing with some of...dealing positively with young children so that we don't have to spend so much money in the future in dealing with the negative consequences. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Brashear, now there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on your amendment, AM1827.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I appreciate your time and your consideration of the amendment. I'm going to urge its adoption. I value some things that were said very much in terms of the debate. First of all, I appreciate the fact that all the...or almost all of the members of the Appropriations Committee are as unified as they are. I truly am appreciative of that...I served two years with the Appropriations Committee...and the way they rushed to the aid of their absent Chairman, who was probably off negotiating something of more moment. Secondly, I appreciate the fact that every member of the Appropriations Committee who spoke said that this was a very good program, or words to that effect. Now one or two people have suggested there's something inconsistent about my proposing this, and I don't think so at all. If this had been...if everybody had come to me and this had been millions of dollars, I would not have considered it. I am, yes, suggesting this because of the importance of the program, because we would do that which the Governor recommended because, on a prioritized basis, this program has an emphasis at the