

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

May 14, 2003

LB 407

and still I don't feel comfortable at this point. I feel like we've worked kind of hard to draft...craft some kind of agreement, not knowing whether we're going to work by taking the cuts that many people wanted. And the things that you're speaking of I would hope would continue to narrow that gap rather than utilizing the fund. So I, in all sincerity, I have to rise to oppose this at this point. And you know how much I want to support the university. I guess, I guess I'm going to listen to the discussion here and if there's some in this room that want to support that and...I'm interested to see what their intentions are, because certainly I want to go back and add more money back for education, particularly higher ed. But we've worked hard at trying to craft some consensus as to what this gap may be and anything that we can do to lessen it I'm all for at this stage. Could I ask you a question, Senator Schrock?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So it's clear, it's my understanding that this is 100 percent your idea. There's...there was no suggestion or support made from the lobby on this issue.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I think they're neutral on this. So I guess it's kind of up to the body and the conversation and the issue...the comments that the rest of you are going to make. Not saying we have an understanding necessarily that everybody is in and...or some are in and some are out. I don't necessarily say that. But for those of you that want to narrow the gap, we've tried to accomplish that and, to me, that was a big step that we took, and once we've taken that, I'm not inclined to go back if it breaks faith with what some of you, at least, understand we're going to...going to be doing. So I'm interested in your conversation and your comments. Goodness knows, I want to do this, but at this point I am not going to. Trying to build on narrowing that gap, and if there's other money shows up in other forms, which...most of which I'm going to oppose. I want to leave the Cash Reserve fairly high. I don't want to get into the Environmental Trust Fund, some things like that. I think we ought to try to narrow the gap and not