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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Landis' argument preceding the last vote that it really doesn't matter because there's going to be more money there and we won't really...won't really miss it, because these other funds will have equivalent sums as in previous years. The difficulty with this is it's putting something in the constitution that does not belong in the constitution, and I am at a loss to understand how we can continue this debate on that basis. We're talking about something we shouldn't be doing. Now the constitution has already had violence done to it in some of the initiatives, and further violence was threatened here a few years ago with, what was it, 413, 414? The problem is this method is wrong. It treats the constitution as a statute book. We shouldn't be doing that. We should have more sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can appreciate Senator Tyson's approach and his feeling that my offering may be too constricted, but not all infectious diseases are fatal. A person can have HIV without it turning to full-blown AIDS. But in most cases, when a person gets AIDS, it is going to be terminal. If the Legislature is going to take a position and tell the public that here is something which is so important, so compelling, so in need of being addressed that the constitution must be used as an instrumentality to achieve that, the item ought to be worthy, certainly worthier than the State Fair. Senator Landis usually operates at a higher level than in this instance, but his city of Lincoln is involved. Senator Beutler's city of Lincoln is involved. Senator Schimek's city of Lincoln, and Senator...well, the "Duchess" city of Lincoln is involved, so you have them in a solid phalanx. But sometimes there will be a voice of reason in the midst of unreason. If Senator Raikes were here, I would ask him a question. I see him heading to his mike. I would like to ask him a question when he gets there, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes, yield to a question, please?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.