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FLOOR DEBATE

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further lights on. Senator Wehrbein, would you like to close on AM3033?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, very briefly I will. We have had some pretty decent discussion on this, on AM3033, and my point really will be that we have made significant cuts to most agencies, and where the increases are, are the ones that I've enumerated. It's in the aid to the needy, it's in Medicaid, it's in higher education to some degree. Even though we have taken cuts, there are still, by the time we use health insurance, salary increases, there tends to be a creep up and that's part of having a good university. If there are to be measured cuts, and perhaps this will come on another issue, but we are on the verge of doing serious damage to the university. And if you believe that education is important, and I...I mean, you don't have to even take my word for it, obviously. Even Alan Greenspan says we've got to emphasize more education to help this country, this state, if you will, be more competitive in the world. Senator Bourne mentioned the idea of the community colleges. Community college enrollment, by the way, is up 27 percent. We have a segment of our population that are using the community colleges very heavily, and they are having to grow. And I think as more and more young people recognize the value of higher education, they are seeking all the options--community colleges, state colleges, and the university--and I think we owe it to them that they have that access to education. A lot of this money in this budget, over half, goes to education. The other fourth goes to the needy, the welfare, to Medicaid, and less than 25 percent goes to operations, and we have cut heavily in the area of operations. So it's...you're going to have to tell me where we can do further cuts, and I'm not talking simply just a few million, but several million as we get into...further in the discussion. But with that, I'd urge adoption of AM3033 at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. You have heard the closing on AM3033. All those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of