

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

March 30, 2004 LB 1089

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Unexcused senators report to the Chamber. The house is under call. The house is under call. Senator Jensen, please check in. Senator Hudkins, please check in. Thank you. Senator Mossey, Senator Combs, Senator Schimek, Senator Quandahl, Senator Erdman, Senator Chambers, Senator Connealy, house is under call. Unexcused senators please report to the Chamber. The house is under call. Senator Schimek, Senator Erdman, and Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, Senator Erdman, Senator Chambers, the house is under call. Senator Brown, would you accept call-in votes? Senator Brown has authorized call-in votes on ceasing debate. Senator Brown has authorized call-in votes.

CLERK: Senator Hartnett voting yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Redfield, you're recognized to close on AM3456.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I sincerely appreciate the conversation we've had. I believe that we all have a better understanding of what occurred in the Appropriations Committee, and I think that we all have a clear idea of what faces us. What faces us by the end of the fiscal year, July 2005, is a \$159 million hole. This bill or amendment before us will not get us there. There are those who say it's too little to make a difference, and yet it's a lot of money to a lot of our citizens, money they work very hard for. And nationally, the Council of State Government tells us that median household income has declined 1.1 percent. How are we going to solve it? If we're going to say it's just going to tax, be a tax increase again this year and the following year and the year after, then let's stop pretending. Let's not say, well, this is too little or this is too big, because I can