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FLOOR DEBATE

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The problem is distinguishing between spending and allocating. You know, Congress sets aside money or, what they say, appropriates money for a purpose, and if they don't use it for that purpose, they don't spend it. Well, that's exactly what this is. And I don't think it helps any situation to provide that we're going to set aside less money. So I think that we have made a statement. I think it's a statement that our economic people throughout the state have determined that they need to portray that we are willing to go forward with that kind of training money. I think we've heard enough about the whole issue and I would ask you to reject the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Engel, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is the time in the session, and this is my last session like this, but this is the time in the session when things start to get a little confused, when people get tired and things start to happen, and some of them are unfortunate, and earlier today one of those did happen. And I guess I don't care if we talked about it for four hours or eight hours, and I don't want to get into the arguments that are going on with Senator Pederson and his comments about Senator Beutler, or who said what. I think we should just get down to the basic issue here, and this is, what is good budget policy? We've had some time to think about it, to be thoughtful about it. I think the arguments have been made by Senator Beutler. Everyone here, I don't know that anyone doesn't think job training is a good idea, or that paying developmentally disabled providers a certain amount is a good idea. These are all good ideas, and they have to be sorted out. But we have to be responsible with what is going to happen in the out years and with this particular allocation. I've been in here for eight years. I have never seen anything like this. Never. To put this amount of money, take it from the Cash Reserve for a programmatic issue, we shouldn't be doing this. Now, I'm going to leave this year. Most of you are going to be gone in a year from now. We could throw up our hands and say, well, you know, so what. This is someone else's problem, they'll sort it out in two years. But that's not responsible. I was called off the floor by the