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FLOOR DEBATE

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warned that, you know, a little bit here and a little bit there, pretty soon it becomes a large amount of dollars on our budget. And that's a real concern of mine. I...you know, I support the program. I'm a little bit concerned about the method, the process that we're going through, of how we can come up with money to supplement this program. I think there is a need for it, but I think it should have come as part of our drug, our meth, LB 117 a year ago. If this program was good, I mean, that should have been part of that program creating these drug task force. Maybe that should have been the approach on it. But I'm really concerned about programs that are started by the federal government, they're really good programs, then all of a sudden they cut you off on...by the shins. So it's something I'm really concerned about. I think it's something that we need to do, need to keep going. And I think since the Appropriations Committee has come up with a method to try to supplement this, I think there is some value to it. I'm willing to stay here till 11:59 tonight, but I would like to be on LB 1189 at 11:59, at that time. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Mr. Clerk, did you have an announcement?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, the Revenue Committee will meet in Executive Session at 3:30 in Room 2022.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Combs, you're next in line to speak.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in support of the Byrne funding, and that's not without having studied the issue and certainly been in contact with one of my local sheriffs, Sheriff Burgess, that's been very active in it. How this came about, the national figures that were presented, that have been referenced here to the Appropriations Committee, those figures are for all the states that got the money. So all across the United States, the program was deemed not to have been as effective as what President Bush wanted. But other states use this money for things like education. I don't know, they could be buying some of Flood's DARE bears. I don't know what they're doing with the money, but it's not what