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your letter of February 8. You mentioned drugs are a huge problem both nationally and in our state. We are devoting a great deal of attention and fiscal resources to address this concern. I fully understand your concern with the loss of the Byrne funds, and appreciate your efforts to restore a portion of those funds. Now, you understand that Congress, with our delegation voting for this, cut these funds to zero. Then some of our representatives--Congressman Osborne was among them--moved to try and restore some of it, and they got some of it back, and that's why the fund request is for \$800,000, because they still have some federal funds. Going on with the letter to Congressman Osborne, I said, unfortunately, we are unable to restore all of the funds dropped by the federal government. When the federal government determines that it must reduce spending, it is unreasonable to expect the state or local governments, who have the same spending concerns, will pick up the loss of these funds. The Appropriations Committee feels a great responsibility to fairly meet the needs of the people of our state, within the limits of our available resources.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: At that, some have characterized our spending as out of control. Interestingly, they do not choose to point out the spending they refer to. This afternoon, our committee voted to deny replacement of loss of the Byrne funds. It is regrettable, but we must continue to keep a close control on our spending. So, that was a characterization of what the opinion was of the Appropriations Committee. And it is because of the concern that the various communities have had, the various law enforcement have had, that I brought this amendment to you not as the Appropriations Committee, which I would normally do; I brought this to you simply to give you the opportunity to view this Byrne fund situation and make your own determination in this regard. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Redfield, you are next in line to speak.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Pederson, we just talked about an amendment and