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FLOOR DEBATE

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level and asking us to give them tax relief, so that we can make up for the loss from the federal government. There is no program in this state that we will not face this same question. You're going to have to decide for yourself what you think the state's priorities should be or whether you want the federal government to dangle the carrot, take the bait, and stay on the hook. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. On with discussion. Senator Flood, followed by Senator Chambers and others.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I think we're looking at this from 30,000 feet when we should sit in the trenches with law enforcement that are trying to muscle up a few extra bucks so that the officer that worked from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon can come back again at night and continue to sit either on an observance, or make an arrest, or participate in a bust, you know, work as an undercover officer in another town, so that they can make a buy that leads to an arrest that builds a case that a prosecutor can use to meet the highest burden in the land, proof beyond a reasonable doubt, so that we can send a drug dealer to jail. That's the view from the ditch. That's the view when you're walking into the sheriff's office and you're looking at a sheriff who's trying to figure out, how am I going to meet payroll and the obligations of this department without the assistance of the Byrne funds? And you know what? Shame on the federal government for cutting them. Shame on anybody that voted to cut them. Shame on the President for wanting to cut Byrne funding. Let's look at this from...you know, there's a problem. And rather than arguing about whose problem it is, we represent the citizens of this state. We campaign in our districts to say, yes, I will fight to make our streets clean, I will fight to keep drug dealers in jail. But we come down here and we vote, no, no more money for law enforcement. That isn't right. There's a problem, and I'm...we're trying to connect the dots so that these drug task forces can go forward. And maybe it is only a one-year solution. Let's give them a year of funding and then say, you