

reason for our interest in only doing this up until the end of this fiscal year because we are aware of those potential abuses. We've had hearings, we've had reports on this. We feel it is being taken care of. We feel it's part of the new executive order. There will be reports. We will be putting that into statute so that we can have closer monitoring of this, Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: I just have some concerns that with the administration looking at the fact that we're going to cut, cut, cut, cut and what we do is under the guise of hiring part-time people and covering it up and then cutting full-time people and that concerns me to some extent. And I mean if we're going to cut, I would like the cut to be up straight so we know where the cut is going to be and it's going to be permanent and across the board and not just in one area and come back and hire with the part time. And I understand there is some savings by not paying them the benefits, but there's some other concerns here that bother me greatly, too. I would understand that most of us, especially with term limits, are sitting here with, you know, part-time jobs, and yet hiring full-time staff which happens quite often in the positions other than the Legislature in the administrative offices and then hiring full-time staff to fit there but hiring part-time staff in those positions that probably should be full time. And I just wanted that to be on the record. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Brown followed by Senators Robinson and Hartnett.

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Pedersen, I wanted to respond a little bit to you. In the current biennium, there has been a 94 percent increase in SOS cost. And it was certainly the concern of the Appropriations Committee for temporary workers, for workers who are helping us balance our budget by foregoing benefits, I mean that was one piece of it; but the other piece of it was that we were concerned about agencies that needed to continue to function and we were concerned about government efficiency. And those were all the things that led the Appropriations Committee to really look at this with a very clear eye and very carefully to make sure that what we were doing was good policy. And our original decisions were to deny the deficit funding so that we could look into it in greater depth and consider some of the issues that you've talked about. So I would really strongly urge the body to take their lead from