

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do think Senator Landis summarized very well the arguments on behalf of our amendment. I would just add one final point. Those of you who have opposed the amendment have spoken in very eloquent terms of the problems the subdivisions of government face with the sort of cut we are proposing, and as Senator Landis has identified, we are not talking about a three percent cut. We are talking about less than a one percent cut in terms of total budget and a one percent budget cut in state aid from the Legislature and I think that is not an unreasonable amount of money to ask those local subdivisions to adjust for. Now I think it is very clear, if you are so concerned about the subdivisions and the impact that this minimal cut will make on them, think about the state agencies and what will happen to them with a three percent cut at this point in the fiscal year. If your concerns are only for the subdivisions, then I ask you to please broaden your horizons and think about the state agencies, the University, and the other programs that are now in effect that are serving the many people of this state through our different state agencies. How are they going to be impacted by a three percent cut when you are so concerned about a one percent cut in state aid to local subdivisions. It seems to me that your priorities are real questionable at this point. It seems to me that we have learned a lesson here from talking about the impacts on subdivisions to see what the impacts are going to be on state agencies because the effects are similar. Midway through a fiscal year we are asking for an amount of money to be taken out of their budget they hadn't planned for. They are going to have to make adjustments at a time that is very inopportune for them. I think that the best way to ask them to bear that burden is to spread the burden across local subdivisions as well as state agencies.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. And it seems to me that the proposal that we have before us in the form of this amendment is the best solution to the problem that we have. If you want to be irresponsible, I would suggest passing Governor Thone's bill. I think if you want to be responsible and you want to hold the line on taxes, you will support this amendment. That seems to be the choices I see. I would suggest that you support the amendment and help us to try and make a reasonable effort to hold the line on taxes in an equitable fashion.