

to a two percent across the board cut and it's all made possible by objecting to and voting against the Beutler amendment with the exclusions. I'm asking you to reject exclusions except for a couple of things, that's the claims and retirement because you have to pay those, but everything else in there really hasn't been justified and I don't think can be justified. I've talked to the fiscal office. We've tried to go over this and I think that they would agree that there is no absolute reason why any of these programs ought not to be included in the across the board cut. So I am suggesting rather than a two percent we can go with a 1.5 percent. It will save about \$12 million if we include everybody instead of trying to take some of these programs out and that's a lot more palatable to me and I would support such a cut if that would be able to be worked out. I know that many of you, you know, that's a position different than what I took a couple of days ago. Senator Beutler said some things have intervened and I still won't go with the two percent. I think that's too harsh on those programs that are cut, but if you are fair and broaden the base in which you make those cuts then I don't have quite as big a problem. This is of grave concern to me. Obviously I have a great admiration for a lot of the different programs that are going to be hurt by this. I have supported them over the years and have cared very much about them, but if you share the burden equally I guess it's not quite as hard to explain when you go back to your districts as when you try to say this has got to go when somebody can point to another program and say well why didn't they go. And it seems to me that perhaps if we aren't able to make justifications for some of the selective cuts that I thought were justified and if we're left with the situation where this is the only alternative left, then if we make it a reasonable alternative then I can certainly support it. I think obviously some of us have lost sight of what I think the Appropriations Committee has done. They've gone through and cut a budget down tremendously. They have provided for almost a no growth or a cut in general fund support from most programs to make room for some expanded programs like Medicaid take up, municipal court take up and some other things that have provided some tax relief and so I think the budget that came out of the Appropriations Committee was just about as lean as you can get and I commend them for their efforts. To now at this point talk about very many more cuts certainly we're going to hurt some people very severely and it scares me a great deal. I'm not very