

accept the two percent or if you really feel strongly about it, get up there and put your motion to reconsider the thing that might have helped you a little better. But I will say, because Senator Beutler condemned the lobby out there, there couldn't be one single lobbyist or one single special interest out there stupid enough to be behind what's going on now. It's like gnats flying around a bull that's on it's way and all it is is harassment and it's stupid.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, you're next on the list.

SENATOR WITHEM: I will pass.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, you're next on the list. Then Senator Sieck, Haberman and Beutler.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I know we talked about it for a while and there is a mood here to cease debate, but let me remind you of a few things. As I sit here I can't help but think in the old days when I was a county commissioner of something that probably we didn't do enough of because when you did pass measures that returned money to the local governments like taking over health care costs, you should have been credit for it because that was in the form of property tax relief. As it applies to counties at least I can guarantee you that that did apply and you did get credit for it, not as much as you should have, but I have to tell you I lose a little patience with my good friend Don Wesely when he starts talking about fairness and equity and he asks to throw in this money as it applies to health care costs, a cost that should never have applied to counties in the first place. As I told you before and I'll remind you again, we're only one of four counties in the whole country that expect local property tax to pay for health care costs and we're certainly not dealing with his amendment from a position of fairness and equity. We're not dealing from a level deck. The last four years, Department of Institutions for example had a 3three percent increase. Local community programs had a 1.9 percent decrease and everybody is supposed to get an across the board cut? That's not fair. I think you all know that. You just turned down the possibility of being somewhat fair to mental health and to alcoholism and drug programs and that didn't fly. So let's forget about those words that seem to sound good but really don't apply, fairness and equity, and I wish we would get off this kick about counties