

made speeches and have indicated that we think there probably are areas within the various agencies of government where some reductions could take place without any real serious effects being felt as far as the services are concerned that are provided by that agency. So the amendment that we're offering, first of all, says that the 2 percent cut is going to be at the agency total appropriation level, not down based on each program necessarily, so that there is some discretion or some movement that the director thinks is appropriate or the institution thinks is appropriate within those programs, they will give them that flexibility to do it. Again, I remind you it is only to that 2 percent cut. Then there is some intent language that is put in and admittedly it's just intent language, but the intent language, and I hope you have a copy in front of you now, you can read it yourself. But the intent language is to try to indicate as best we can that we would expect this reduction to be absorbed internally within the department or the institution and to not affect the services provided if they can possibly help it. Also to the institutions of higher learning we've asked them to do the same thing rather than turn right around and raise the tuition rates. Now I recall a few years ago when many of us were members of this body and we were in here for a special session and we were cutting the expenditures of government at that time across the board similar to the 2 percent now. I think it was 3 percent that particular year. We, at the same time, took away from our state employees some salary increases that we'd already promised them earlier in the session or earlier in that year that we were going to give them. We cut the budget, I think it was 3 percent, we turned around and went home and about a week or so later the University raised their tuition rates a bunch and guess who got the blame for it? They also increased their salaries to their employees 10 percent as I recall. Now they can do that and they have done it and they probably will do it again, but I don't think that is the intent of the Legislature, at least it's not my intent. It's not my intent to say we're going to try to reduce the budget by 2 percent and you're going to pass it right along. You're going to absorb it as much as you possibly can is what my intent is and that's the reason I offer this amendment as an amendment to the 2 percent cut that's up there. Again, I want to reiterate, it's a matter of policy I suppose, it's a matter of philosophy. But as far as I am concerned I think we have people at the institutional