

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to raise kind of a separate issue as to why I would not want to do the 1 percent and that involves a critical part of the Appropriations Committee package. That critical portion of that package is a transfer of funds in excess of the amount the Legislature originally wanted in the "rainy day" fund or special reserve fund, totally 5 million, I think, or more. That transfer occurs in another bill. I think it's LB 501. I say it is a critical part. It represents about one-third of the total package. I can just see adopting this proposal, being trapped, literally, and not being able to hold together or get the 501 moved which then means the 1 percent additional amount that he is offering that everybody is talking about automatically taking out, will never be taken out and it will go into effect and then you will not have accomplished the goals. At least you will have caused more pain than need be done if you just adopted the package. So I think it's a dangerous trap to move into. It may never work out that way, but if I sincerely were on the other side and didn't want to transfer the funds from the reserve fund, I know I would be able to stop, or anybody would, like Senator Chambers or Senator Beutler or anybody on the opposing side that doesn't want that funds transfer, would be able to stop LB 501. So I think you may destroy the integrity of the package if you go ahead and put the 1 percent and the Appropriations package together. Additionally, it is divisible if you don't suspend the rules. Now it wasn't divisible when it was 2 percent. The reason it wasn't divisible was because the 2 percent is the original amendment, but when Senator Beutler changes it to 1 percent and has the Appropriations Committee package, then he has put it in a position of even John can divide that question which I couldn't do before. So I don't want to suspend the rules because if he offers that identical amendment that he has there, in other words, that amendment without a suspension of the rules, I can ask for a division of the question. We can vote independently on the Appropriations Committee package and then on his 1 percent and I've got a funny feeling that if you do it that way, the Appropriations Committee package will get the votes and the 1 percent will be a moot subject and never get the votes and it will be over. So the suspension of the rules prevents me from separating out just the Appropriations Committee package and so I am going to oppose, unless I have compelling arguments or reasons to the contrary, I am going