

only to override those vetoes that were significant to either health or educational services provided to the citizens of the state with the one exception which would have been the override on the Medicaid and that, obviously, was solely for the reason, at least from my point of view, that 81 counties had to give up a part of their state aid to contribute it to 12, where a million six-hundred and some thousand dollars were taken away from 81 counties to be given to 12, and, as I recall, about a million three of that million six goes to Douglas County. But it was our position and I think the Legislature's position yesterday that that was an inequity that we could not justify. So I would urge that you would give consideration to vote for an override in order to resolve this issue, maintain those important services of state government, not shift additional burden on the property tax and retain some reasonable equity in the distribution of that state aid to counties.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first of all I'd like to say how proud I am of my colleagues, that there is not a single name or just the names of the Appropriations Committee but 24 names on that motion. It shows to me a sense of collective responsibility for our actions. The fact is that the budget has left the Appropriations Committee's hands and this body has assumed responsibility for that budget. It is not their budget, it is our budget and we now assume the responsibility to pay for that budget. I again reiterate, I am proud of my colleagues for acknowledging their collective sense of responsibility by co-signing this motion. Secondly, I want to point out that the overriding of this veto is very necessary. As politically attractive as it might be to have gone along with the vetoes and to have walked away with a budget in the shape as it was returned to us by the Governor, the difficulty therein would have been that the wounded, and there certainly would have been wounded, would not have been ours to minister, but that triage would have been done by schools and counties and others as well as ourselves. We would have passed along the business of bloodying up people in need. I think the budget is responsibly drawn and it now is up to us to perform our constitutional obligation which is to fund that budget. This is the way that we have selected and the body as an institution now must speak not only to the Governor, but to the public and say this is our collective will and we meet our responsibility by passing this motion and overriding this veto.