

know. One argument could be that had it not for some of those measures...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: ...instead of looking at a 5 percent growth, you're looking at a 7 or 8 percent growth. That doesn't sell too well.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm going to put my light back on again because I'm not finished. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: The next speaker is Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I hope to have more of a chance to address some issues on Select File on the mainline budget bill. Obviously we're all trying to work our way through the legislation to better understand its implications. One of the things I would like to express at this time is a concern about the potential closing of Whitehall School, happens to be located in my district, an area that I've had a chance to examine a program that has been able to serve the students and the families that have been part of that program well. They feel that it has succeeded where other school systems have failed. There is an expense involved and it is likely to be deleted if the budget goes through as currently constituted by the Appropriations Committee. It's always a difficult thing to decide to cut a program. For the most part they are enacted because they are well thought of, well intended and hopefully well considered in its drafting. And we've had Whitehall School and the program there for a long, long time and it has served the state well, but there is a great deal of...and so there is a great deal of concern obviously about its potential loss from the budget. The budget does not specifically delete Whitehall School from continuing support, but I think clearly in everybody's mind we know that the budget cut goes through, that's what would result and so it is my intent on Select File to take a look at that issue and consider whether or not to find other sources for the funding cut or perhaps additional money for Whitehall or one way or another try and see if we can't address that issue. There are additional concerns about the bill. One of the elements of the bill talks about an increase in child welfare payments of \$2 million the first year and almost 6 million the second year while support for families goes up to something like \$12,000. It is clear