

Schrock, Senator Landis, Hartnett, Hefner, Hillman, Johnson and Johnson, Beyer, Bohlke, will you please check in. Senator Landis. The house is under call. Will all members please report to the chamber and record your presence. The house is under call. Call-ins have been authorized.

CLERK: Senator Morrissey voting yes. Senator Schellpeper voting yes. Senator Hartnett voting yes. Senator Peterson voting yes. Senator Landis voting yes.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CONWAY: Debate is ceased. Senator Ashford, would you like to close?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'd like to also give Senator Moore a little time at the end of this, my closing. This is very difficult, obviously, to try to convince 48 other people that we need to bite the bullet and do some budget cutting, and it's a lot easier to not do that. It's a lot easier to just suggest that, well, we've got a little over a 3.1 reserve and we can balance at that amount and we'll come back next year and we'll worry about it and by that time the economy's going to go back into overdrive and we're going to have all the money we need to pay for Medicaid and we're not going to have to tax anybody else, and it's an easy decision to do it that way. And, Senator Robinson, it's very difficult to talk about cutting programs that may have some impact on a program, such as foster care, but I'd like to remind the body about a couple of points. One, look prior to this debate and, when we talked about this bill before, I handed out a list of the cuts and how they would affect each district and the amounts are very, very minimal. This \$1.7 million is spread out across the state to various districts. This is a 5, over a 5 million dollar program. The program is not going to go away. Also, Senator Robinson, in response to your point about school districts not taking the children, the bill or the amendment requires that these children be considered residents of the school districts that they...where they live as foster children. The school districts are going to be required to take them and they're going to take them and the red herring evidence that you're hearing about school districts, all sorts of horrors being cast upon foster children because they're foster children