

funeral directors that we have been working with on this legislation, they do not support the change. And in reality, it is a compromise. It is not totally eliminating the \$5,000 figure. It does delay one year, only. In our estimation, it is a reasonable effort to compromise, and we are willing to do that with Senator Schellpeper, so we would support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I am rising in opposition to the amendment. I have had some conversation with the director of the funeral...Funeral Directors Association and I guess it is his opinion that they would like not to support this amendment, and so for that reason, I would oppose it, plus the fact that I think that we had an adequate hearing and it was accepted at the hearing time, and I just would rise in opposition to the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I, along with Senator Wesely, also will support this amendment. As he said, this is a piece of legislation, originally the intent was that it would have been, first of all, to \$4,000, and then the following year to \$5,000. There is some feeling on the part of other people that this is quite an increase in a very short period of time, and we definitely would not want to convey to people just to raise prices just because they know that in another year this is going to be their opportunity to increase those prices. So for this reason, even though it does...I guess as far as I am concerned, whether they like it or not, they are getting an increase, and they may not be getting exactly what they want when they want it, but it certainly is a lot better than we presently now...presently provide for. So for that reason, I am going to support the Schellpeper amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the amendment? Senator Schellpeper, would you care to close?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. Let me say again that my local mortician is the one that brought this to my attention in the first place, and he said that he thought the \$5,000 was really too high, but that he would go