

to pick up the declining amount but they asked for an expansion which is certainly fine because probably the Procurement Office does some very fine things. My point is, however, that we have been faced on committee and we have been faced on this floor constantly and we will continue to be faced on this floor with declining federal funds that we get and then we're asked to come in as a state and pick it up with General Fund dollars. This is an expansion area request. Now, all of a sudden, now all of a sudden in the last two days we find out that the federal funds are not going to decline, probably will not decline but we still want to have an expansion with General Funds. Now that's a proper request. The committee suggested that we probably wouldn't be doing this, this wasn't our recommendation because we did expand the budget in the Department of Economic Development and other areas, we felt that this particular agen...this particular program was not the highest priority that we had brought before us. The Governor, as you know, put some significant funds in the Department of Economic Development. We'll be talking about some field offices coming up later that we are probably a little softer on than this issue. We have a million dollars that went out of the Department of Labor that went into job training through the Department of Economic Development. We think that we have done a good job in trying to meet the needs for this state in the area of economic development and we don't feel that this is a very high priority and we decided not to fund it. It has changed since the original request. It hasn't changed my priority. I think it probably is less urgent now than it was when it first came to us. I would hope that you would reject the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you care to close.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, I think my light was on.

SPEAKER BARRETT: There are no other lights on, this is your closing...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Then I will close.

SPEAKER BARRETT: ...or I will call for the vote.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, I think I will close then.