

training and so little for community money. This 160,000 that we put in here that goes out directly to communities supplements 160,000 already in the budget, that we put in last year's budget bill. Last year we put in 80 and 160,000, if you'll remember. So that brings the level up to, I think, an amount significant enough that you put it out there in the communities, those communities are pretty good at leveraging a few thousand dollars and doing a lot more with them, frankly, than we've sometimes been able to do with state government. So, with that minor change, I would ask you to adopt the amendment and then advance the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Scofield, I have said this to you before, and I just want it to be in the record that I'm for this bill, I'm for the concept. And I hope that it makes its way clear through the system to the very end. I am concerned about the money, the price tag. I'm getting panicky like a lot of us right now, when we are coming to the last 20, 21 days of the session and know that the 45th day is March 14th, when we start talking about the budget in earnest. And I do have one other thing that is a high priority with me, it's the overriding priority, I won't go into it today, I think you all know what it is, to be sure that that's funded this time. So, if at the end we don't end up with the money for this, I hope it will hang there until we have it again, Senator Scofield, because I do like the concept. I just want it to be on the record, because I know you understand how I feel about the money. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I think you've expressed the concern that all of us have as we look at the budget finalization numbers, it kind of makes you break out in a cold sweat when you know how many bills are out there, they're all worthwhile, a lot of expensive initiatives. But I think the time to do something for kids has come. And I hope that we will put kids at the top of our agenda here. We've got a lot of excellent pieces of legislation out there, not just this one. And so I guess when the final days come and we've got to pick and choose, I hope we can make sure that the kids get their fair share. Thank you.