

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith, would you respond, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Is there an A bill with this, Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, there is.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: How much is it? Would you...

SENATOR SMITH: Last year the amount, the fiscal note was \$168,000, and they have also included then, the people that provided this to me told me that they have had a bid from a professional training institution that indicates that they could provide it for less than that amount of money.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. Do you think then that with this bill and LB 1222 that it may be too much? You know, it was vetoed last year. Do you think it's going to put us over the edge again?

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schellpeper, I can only hope that, as I mentioned a little earlier, last year the Governor did talk about the need for this and did include the amount of money in her budget proposal. And I am hopeful that she will continue to see the need as I do, and I hope other members of the floor see a need for this specific kind of training, and that she would be willing to include it in here budget and that she would not veto it.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. I think, too, that's it's probably needed and that I will support it. Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, did you wish to speak about the Smith amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Yes, I do support the Smith amendment. In our discussions, a week or so ago about the Foster Care Review Board and the appointments, that was one of the things that I had said that what we need to do is strengthen the Foster Care Review Board and put some money into the programs that they oversee and the training for any kind of...the training for people who look after other people is so important, especially with children. You simply cannot allow