

I will support this increase in funding, and if anyone has a good argument against it, wants to come over and talk to me and explain it all to me a little better, come on over because I have had the other side explained to me real well by these folks that are working hard and are really involved in this on a personal basis from my hometown and my home district, and they have convinced me it is a priority and this is needed, and that is why I am going to support the amendment. Thank you. I would like to give Senator Nelson one minute.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, Senator Morrissey, one other thing that I need to point out and the folks from my region made this very plain to me. They don't maybe have as much of a problem with not receiving the funding as they have a problem with not knowing how much funding they are going to get, and that does work on my mind, too. So I am like Senator Morrissey, this would be very difficult not to support, but their point was just tell us what we are going to get instead of reading this into something that we are not getting. So I will remember that, too, when I vote.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Coordsen's amendment, and I do that with some reluctance because I do appreciate the different viewpoints that have been expressed on the floor today, particularly Senator Hannibal's explanation, and also I have some sympathy with the things that Senator Wesely was talking about. I sat in on that hearing this summer and came away convinced that one of the problems that does exist is the poor communication, and it seemed to me that it was very, very difficult for the regions themselves to draw budgets under these kinds of circumstances, not knowing what the client counts necessarily were going to be because one interpretation was that it would be based on one year, one interpretation was that it was based on another year, and there was just simply miscommunication. I believe also that these old client counts are too old by the time we base funding on them. I came away convinced that the system needs to be changed. I also came to the conclusion, finally and reluctantly, that there are some additional funds needed, and I have talked with some of the people who are directly involved in providing services and these people are very good people. They