

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Warner, on the Schimek amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, at this point I guess I'd oppose that portion of the amendment. Senator Withem has, I think, expressed some reservations it might be done some other way, but I think the concept is one on staff that should be there. Obviously, if the amendment is adopted as I introduced it, and there is a better way to do it, I suspect it will come forward. If we do not adopt it, I suspect we'll never come back to it. So I would oppose Senator Schimek's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I have mixed feelings about this too, Senator Schimek, about the staff in particular, and I did listen to what Senator Withem said so I'm not sure just at the moment how I'm going to vote on your amendment. But I did want to clear up just one thing that Senator Withem said. I just can't resist, Senator Withem, your remark about secretaries. I'll stand up for the secretaries of the world. They have a lot more power than you think they do. I was a secretary for most of my life. Tomorrow is National Secretaries Day. I want you all to take note of that and actually a lot of us, over the years, myself included, worked very hard in his or her, I'll have to say his or her, own party. So, Senator Withem, I just wanted to bring that to your attention and I understood what you were saying, but I think that secretaries do wield a lot of power even though maybe it's not always evident. But going back to the amendment itself, I'm not just sure at this moment, Senator Schimek. I may vote against your amendment just because I would hope by the next time some of those things will be ironed out, not that I'm against the idea because I have mixed feelings about staff being allocated by any category at all, really. So thank you. Senator Withem, do you want the rest of my time?

SENATOR WITHEM: Certainly would, Senator Crosby, to clarify...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...to clarify the point. After you listened so well to my pun about marshal faith this morning, I thought you had been listening more closely. What I said was if you had the two high-level people as Republicans and the two secretaries as