

Bernard-Stevens, if you would like to.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, there has been some confusion on what exactly amendments have been put forth by Senator Pirsch because there have been some different ones that have been printed and offered which is no criticism but it has been difficult to follow. Basically, what was the original thought of many of us in the body is that the first amendment would have the appropriations for this year and the first year of the upcoming biennium or next year. Then the second amendment would be, well, if we didn't get two years, we would go for one year. And then was floating around a possibility of an amendment that, well, we might take half of the money from the domestic abuse and violence appropriation and take half of that and put in. So, in essence, what we now have before us is this amendment that has...that Senator Pirsch has is for two years funding. The second amendment would then take, if the first amendment failed, the second amendment would be taking the money from domestic abuse. So Senator Moore and I have offered this amendment to the first amendment which says, hey listen, they may not be able to pay anymore money out because they're up against their appropriation for this year. If we're going to do this proposal, and I'm not sure I will vote for it anyway, but if we're going to do it, let's put money then for this year so they would be able to pay more for the victims' reparation program and victim assistance program, but let's leave it for next year to go through the regular budget process and regular requests as we build the biennium budget. This is a cleaner and better way to do it. Even though I'm not sure I'll be supportive of it, it is a better way to handle it through the appropriation process.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit, did you wish to address the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'll listen to Senator...give my time to Senator Pirsch and then I'll speak after her.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: That's because he saw me stamp my fist and...(laughter), because the question I was going to ask Senator Moore and Senator Bernard-Stevens if they will vote for