

(Laughter.) No, in real seriousness here, I do commend Senator Bernard-Stevens for bringing this, although I do think that a bill of this impact probably should have a public hearing, and this bill did not have a public hearing, so I do hate to stand up here and oppose anything that might reflect on appearance that I'm not for something to detour our domestic violence and so on and so forth. But this has nothing to do with my feelings towards domestic violence, simply I think it should stand on its own two feet, I think it should come before Appropriations, I think it might fly. But I can understand him wanting to get it on this bill here and getting on the road. But at this time, I will have to oppose such return for this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Wesely, Chambers, Beutler and Maurstad.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This is... I feel like I'm between the proverbial rock and the hard place, because I sympathize with what Senator David Bernard-Stevens is trying to do. I think that we've just really begun recognizing the tremendous problem that domestic violence is in this state and in this country. And I do think that we need somehow to find some money for some of these domestic violence programs and for some of the homes that are being established for families of domestic violence. Having said that, I'm really reluctant to support this. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you mentioned that Senator Chambers would probably oppose this, and maybe he will. Yes, he will. But we're not establishing a new fee here. I mean the fee has been in statute, it's been something that's been traditional. What we're doing here is trying to raise the fee to cover the cost of providing these documents. And it is my understanding that even with the raise in this bill to \$15, that still does not cover the cost of providing these marriage documents. The average cost is more like \$18 per document. So my... I guess my reluctance is that if this raise doesn't even take care of it we go ahead and raise the fee for the domestic violence program that the county clerks are not going to be able to come in, in the foreseeable future, and have any other kind of an increase that will allow them to cover the costs of issuing the marriage licenses and all that that entails. So I'm not strongly opposed, just... how is it that LaVon puts it, Senator Crosby? This is a friendly red, I guess, or, no a friendly red. I probably won't support it, but I certainly wouldn't be terribly