

disappointed if the body, in its infinite wisdom decided to. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in support of the Bernard-Stevens amendment. This has had a hearing previously. We had a bill on this a couple years ago in the Health Committee, it was advanced to the floor of the Legislature, we simply ran out of time. The bill that came back again this year, I guess, hasn't had a hearing. But you can't argue that the issue hasn't been before us before. But I do think Senator Cudaback does make a point. If you would amend the bill, you could hold the bill, have a hearing and then decide further, or whatever. I do rise because I think the point that Senator Bernard-Stevens is making is important. Domestic violence is a serious problem in this state, and we are seriously underfunding that problem and not providing shelter for people. I just saw a figure about one of the shelters in town here in Lincoln with hundreds of people waiting months and months to try and get in, to get the protection necessary from domestic violence. We are facing an onslaught of violence and not providing the shelter to provide for these women and children that are being harmed in marriage, and sometimes not in marriage. It's not always in a marriage situation. So we have a problem, we are underfunding the solution to the problem, and the cost of this, the extra \$10, it may discourage Senator Cudaback, but if you're going to get married, you're going to have to spend a lot more than \$10, or \$15, or \$25. You're talking about a great deal of money being spent on marriages today and weddings and all that go along with it. So this is a minimal amount of money in the total face of what is spent on the act of marriage. And it seems to me that it's a small price to pay to help deal with a very important problem. So I, for one, rise in support of the amendment. It's an unusual situation to be in, but I think it's an important enough problem that we ought to at least consider it and try to do what we can.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Bernard-Stevens' comments fit my situation. I did not catch the addition of this provision to the bill because I have opposed increasing fees in this manner. Whether it's on a wedding license, marriage license or anything else, it's a