

you...Senator Bernard-Stevens, to close on his amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Beutler, again to clarify. We've checked with the fiscal staff, and Senator Wehrbein and I have checked with Liz Hruska, and there are no fees collected at this point. It's all General Fund. There are some, certainly, private donations that go in, but there are no fees collected at this point. Members of the body, I knew this would be an uphill battle because this is third round debate. But there really was no other place to make the battle. As you know, Senator Chambers is against any fee increase, no matter what. Last year we had three or...or the last two years we've had about four filibusters on fees, and even if the bill...and I'm confident it would have gotten out of the committee, it would have been filibustered General File, Select File, what have you, this is Final Reading and it's much more controlled. There's a way that we can make a decision at this point. I want to finish my closing with a comment about domestic violence and abuse. You know, in Nebraska we have not faced very well the numbers of violent acts that are taking place in our communities. We all know that they are there. The child, Senator Chambers, that was crying, was saying, Senator Chambers, you're not going to help my friends, my children, the ones that are being abused, and they were very concerned about that man who was going to take the help away from them. And I say that somewhat in jest, but there are children out there, there are battered victims out there that are crying for help and we have been unable to do the general funds that we needed to do because we don't have all of the funds, all of the assets we would like to do. We would all like to do more. It was at 600,000 about four years ago. Senator Crosby brow-beat, and everything, the Legislature and got another \$200,000 put in, bless her heart, but we have never been able to get to the funding. And out in the western part of the state I can't emphasize enough, there is not enough funding to actually go out to a home in another county that's different from where the agency would be to investigate or look at. They can't do it. People actually have to know to call an 800 number. On a victim that's a victim of abuse, they have to call an 800 number of which there is no one that could come out to help and they have to then somehow come in to the agency. We're crying for dollars. This would set a fee that Senator Bohlke...I have to disagree with my good friend and Chairwoman of the Education Committee, this fee is very apropos, because when you do get married you say, we're going to do this for