

seems to me that since the members of the Performance Review Committee, especially Senator Warner got up and supported my bill, that he certainly doesn't support the continuation of the Weatherization Fund, and I have problems with that. If the...if the Weatherization Fund people are coming in to get other alternatives for the Weatherization Fund, you know that the demand for weatherization is way down. It is out. There were seven applications this last year, seven applications. Now that does not justify the continuation of it. So I oppose the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, or maybe his previous remarks, I should say Madam President, I am not sure which way it fits up there. Yeah, I asked to have this division pulled out because, you know, it is the portion of the amendment that I most strenuously object to. I think the question of whether we ought to do this through grants or loans, as I indicated to Senator Wickersham a few moments ago, is a very legitimate sort of issue around which reasonable minds can differ. But I don't think we ought to tack on with that, to that idea, the concept of doing away with a sunset, particularly when that portion, I remember hearing the discussion in the previous amendment that that portion wasn't discussed all that much. I know we all conveniently look at the sides of the arguments that support our position and tend to ignore the others, but I think Senator Beutler may have done that even more so than is normally the case by criticizing the process. I would point out, as Senator Robinson pointed out, that, yes, there is a performance, this is one of the programs being reviewed by the Performance Audit Committee. I am a member of that committee. At a recent discussion, there was no vote taken, but the informal consensus, I think, of the members of that committee was that rather than going through the performance review of that program that this amendment made a lot of sense. Again, there is no formalized vote of that. You've heard the Chair of that committee speak. I am a member of that committee. I am speaking. I would also point out, though, that why is that bad...bad use of our system going around...around the legitimate mechanisms where an amendment to do away with the sunset while the program is under review is perfectly legitimate. Senator Beutler not only is doing that now, but in introducing LB 582 on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee, he did that. There was no problem