

SENATOR STUHR: As I said earlier, I really cannot support the bill unless this amendment is adopted. Even then I think it adds just another layer of bureaucracy in the system so thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I just stand to support the Vrtiska amendment where you would have mutual consent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There is no further lights, Senator Vrtiska. Do you wish to close?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Yes, I would just make a very short closing. First of all, I would like to thank Senator Abboud for all his work on this piece of legislation. I know he spent several, the past several years trying to get this piece of legislation passed. As I indicated earlier, I have opposed it in the past because I didn't feel that it was a level playing field and that's what we're trying to do here. I do have some concerns about it as have been indicated by Senator Stuhr, but I think with this amendment it certainly makes it fair for both sides and I would hope that the body would see fit to adopt my amendment. And with that, I ask you to support this amendment and I'll give the remainder of my time to Curt Bromm, Senator Bromm.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bromm, you have four minutes.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. And I again just reiterate I think it would be well if we could adopt this amendment. And one point I wanted to clarify if I could, Senator Stuhr had a question about the cost of the special master. It is my impression that there should be no cost associated with the special master for the CIR and that's... I think that's something that we might want to continue to clarify before this legislation becomes law because in reading the bill, I guess I would have answered your question that probably the CIR would wind up paying for it although the parties could be assessed the cost of surveying and obtaining information and data. But the fiscal note that Senator Abboud just showed me indicates that there's an assumption that there is no intent that the CIR will pay for the special master part of this process. And as a precedent for that, they cite that the State