

very small amount of money. I know that there may have been an attempt to clore phalanx and support every thing that is in the budget bill, so that nothing will be reduced and nothing will be added, but sometimes this type of lockstep conformity signifies, as they say, what is signified by a rock-ribbed consistency. The point I am making is this, to depart from that idea of not adding anything to the budget is justified in a situation such as the one being brought to us by Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. He is offering something which is aimed to help one of the most vulnerable groups in this society. This kind of assistance is available in other parts of the state. The people who are in need in the area covered by what Senator Bernard-Stevens is offering us are no less worthy of this consideration than those we've already seen fit to make it available to. We missed having this motion adopted by a very few votes. I am hoping that enough people have come to get us the 25 votes we need to make successful this offering. I am going to listen to the discussion today and see if anything is said of substance or which is meritorious as a basis for rejecting what Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment is offering for us. I did not hear Senator Wehrbein say he opposed the purpose that this money would be used for. He said he does not want to extend the program. I am all in favor of it. It would be similar to having a state-funded vaccination project which is made available in three-quarters of the state. Now we say we are going to try to cover the remaining quarter of the state, and somebody says because I have a philosophy against expanding programs, even though vaccinating youngsters is a meritorious idea, my idea is to not expand programs and that will take priority over the good that could be done by expanding this particular one. I say again, the amount of money is so small, so minuscule, so infinitesimally tiny when compared to the overall budget, and the amounts that we have spent on other projects far less worthy, in my opinion, than this one, that we ought to go ahead and appropriate this \$20,000. And for those who say that they are interested in extending a helping hand to those who need it, we should vote aye on this motion with a song in our heart, if we have a heart. Senator Crosby, something like that fellow in the Wizard of Oz. I have no heart, but because I lack one I can recognize perhaps the value of it, so I would like to see those who have one show me and reinforce for me, once again, what it really means to have a heart, and I do hope we will support Senator Bernard-Stevens' motion to reconsider.