

potentially a million and three dollars, a billion dollars. It's a lot of money. It's a lot of money, people, and none of you even know who it is going to or how many kids we're servicing. So it is beyond me how you can...can think that you can shoot this bill through, which you probably can. You probably have got the votes here, but I, for one, want to stand for the taxpayers in this state and say that it's wrong what you're doing, you're spending a tremendous amount of their money. This is their money, this is not your money. This is their money and I want you to understand that. And I want you to know that I disapprove of it. I think you are doing it in a manner, in an incremental manner that is very dangerous because you are not looking at the big picture in all of these programs and where all this money is being spent. I know you're busy and we have a lot of things on our mind and a lot of issues, but this is an area where you had better start looking, and looking hard at the money that is being spent. When Jon Hill came into that meeting and said that we were going to spend \$47,000 a year per inmate in that facility in Omaha, it was stunning. The victim's rights people came up and said that is almost our entire budget for one inmate, that is almost the entire victim's rights budget in the state of Nebraska for one year, for one inmate, and the thing that I kept thinking of is my family cannot save money for our son, who will be going to college in two years, and that would pay for a college...the best college education you could get. So you are continuing to take it from those of us who don't have it to give any longer, and you are putting it into these areas, you don't even know where you're spending it, but it's all for a good cause so keep it flowing. And I would hope that you would at least ask for some accountability. This does not stop appropriations. I cannot do that on the floor of the Legislature. That has to be done through the Appropriations Committee, but what I can do is ask for some accounting of that money and that is what this amendment does. I would hope that if you do decide to vote down the amendment that you think very hard on this 1141 before you advance it from Select File. I would ask for your help with this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. You've heard the closing. The issue before the body is the adoption of the Witek amendment, 3072. Please vote your preference.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Record vote.