

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you...do you think that the Rape and Domestic Violence Program has value to society?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But it doesn't have \$74,000 worth of value this year?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Increase? Not increased value this year.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does that mean...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Considering all demands on all other budgets, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does that mean that we believe that there will be a less serious problem with rape and domestic violence this year than there was last year?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Probably not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, if we take your philosophy that you have with building prisons and saying we are going to have a problem down the road so we should be build more prisons and spend the money now, why are you not willing to spend an amount of money to deal with a problem that is not going to be developed down the road but that faces us right now?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, partly...you have to look at the history of it. I don't have it all in front of me, but we have increased spending in this area quite significantly in the last four to five years, so it is not that we have ignored this issue at all. I can't remember all that we have added but, as I said, I think we have increased it significantly in the last four or five years. Ours is one where we try to balance literally hundreds of decisions and place them in a proper budget form and this is just where we came out. Other areas are always pushing for more. Crime is an area that is increasing rapidly also.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, the statistics show that crime is decreasing in this state and around the country, and it is mainly because of the age of those who are committing the crimes. But anyway...