

and, as I say, I do think the developmental disability money is really important this year. We must hang on to that. So I will support this and if we end up trying having to do whatever, David, why then I will support there again too. So, and I do appreciate your being the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS. Thank you, Madam Chairman, and this will be, Madam President, excuse me, this will be the final time that I will speak on the amendment. I obviously will have a closing and I'll save any remarks I may have to do at that point. But I do want to reemphasize the terrible needs that we have out there and Senator Crosby is absolutely correct, a couple of years ago we finally did some things and added to the budget something that has been needed for a long, long time. We also agreed that last year we need to go one step further. Now, I don't think it is every year we need to keep increasing, that is not the point, but we needed to get them to a level where in the parts of the state that are very, actually statewide it is a problem, but in particular areas that you have a large geographical area and a one entity or group that is trying to deal with all of the rape and domestic violence cases, it is very difficult for them right now under the current budget to actually get out in some of the other counties to do a good job. And so, in essence, we are not able to provide the same services consistently for a large group of people. What we did last year made absolute sense and that is, we were going to give them the dollar so they they would be capable of doing that. And we all agreed on that. The Appropriations Committee agreed on it and then we got to the veto compromise and that was basically it, we were overriding the first portion of that veto. There is no question in my mind that this is one of the more valuable things that we can do in domestic violence cases because we all know, whether we like to admit it or not, that it happens far, far, more that we would really care to admit and so many of them not even reported because it's simply a smaller town saying, well, you know, we will take care of that matter somehow, or that is just Bernie, or whatever the case may be. It is something that is a statewide major problem. What this amendment again does is simply admit the fact that when the veto was taken and not overridden in the second year, we must understand that there...the majority of the dollars were actually in the second year. It wasn't an equal split. So when that veto was not