

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam President, members, as a member of the Appropriations Committee I normally try very hard not to add anything to the budget because I feel like we have worked fairly hard and have tried to put together what we consider a balanced budget and very simply I rise to support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment simply because it is something that I personally choose to do and I think it is something that is very worthwhile in many areas. For one thing there, and I'm not sure if it is 23 or 26 sites that we currently fund through the Department of Social Services, but the dollars never reach all the requests. There is still not near enough dollars to support this particular program and the program is a shelter for battered women and children. It is some place for them to go when they have no other place. It is \$73,000 and I don't minimize that. I don't tell you that is a small amount of money because it...those are the kinds of things that add up to \$1.6 billion. But if you are going to look at dollars and bottom line, I think this is one program where, though we may not be able to track it as an Appropriations Committee, I think you will probably see a cost savings in the long run because it is a shelter program where women can go, can avoid some of the costs to society later on that I think occur because of this problem. Domestic violence is something that I have a personal interest in anyway in looking at the fact that we've tried to introduce legislation that would change the protection orders. Domestic violence and that particular act needs a lot of help with it. Have worked locally with a team in Scotts Bluff County that is looking at trying to put together a domestic violence team to better address the whole system. There are a lot of inequities in it and I think this point the \$73,000 would have big benefits to the state if we made that kind of investment. And for that reason, and I won't do this too often, but for that reason I will support an addition to the budget and support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Madam President, I also rise to indicate support for the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment. I worked with Senator Bernard-Stevens last year through the appropriation process in providing what we have for the first year of the