

It's legitimate. And if we're going to have that as a function of statute, then it needs to be funded. I support...or I oppose the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment and actually I don't really care what you do with it, in some ways, because it's not a big deal to me. You know, I've had a task force that met that didn't have any funding at all, and we did have to ask people to be on that task force from different parts of the state, and it was very difficult to get people from the western part of the state to serve. I mean it's not fair to ask people to serve without compensation. So I guess that's one of the reasons I'm opposed to the Chambers amendment. Secondly, I think that isn't the real issue. The real issue, to me, is what Senator Chambers is really talking about, and that's the representation on the Constitutional Revision Committee. And, you know, I'm kind of at the point where I don't think there's much that we can do about it now because that commission has been meeting for a number of months. If anybody went on the commission now they'd be really behind the...they'd be behind all the rest of the members of the commission. And I think it's very, very unfortunate that this ever happened. I think that some of the people involved feel that it was very unfortunate. There are some people who don't and I guess this message is to them. As long as I'm on this floor I will always try to see that when we do things like this we make certain that there's proper appreciation for diversity and especially on something as important as this, as vital to the state's interest as this. It is unconscionable that in this day and age we still don't have proper representation. You know I remember Abigail Adams' plea to husband, John, you know, Dear John, please don't forget the ladies. And she thought even way back then that there should be ladies on...represented and on commissions and those kinds of things. And here we are, 200 and some years later, and we still are ignoring that very basic, basic question as to whether we have diversity on commissions like this that are very important. So that's really all I wanted to say. I don't disagree with what Senator Chambers is trying to do, but I don't think I'll be supporting it because I do believe that people ought to at least get their expenses when they serve for the state in a matter as important as this. And I think they'll be putting in a lot of