

Revenue Committee that this was an effort that was going to have to be an integral part of our restructuring in how government services are provided, what we require of local governments and certainly the unanswered question yet is how they're all going to be provided for. I think with the inclusion of both the five statewide organizations, who have the ability to generate income gathering at the local level within counties where the people are actually faced with complying with mandates that you and I might not even think are mandates, coupled with the request to the committees to look at this area from the Legislature's side, I think ought to be...has every promise of being a successful product, of producing a successful product. Of course, as we all understand, not every mandate is bad. Most mandates are good, whether they're funded or unfunded, but there are some mandates that are good but unnecessary and I believe that that may well be the result of this and I look forward to being part of this effort. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I do rise also to support the amendment but I want to put a word of caution into this because we can all say, yes, I know of no one who would vote against the task force for unfunded mandates perhaps, but this is an opportunity and not just a feel-good amendment, at least in my terms. If what's going to occur in the next two years is that the lines get drawn and that subdivisions say, look, here's the ammunition we need to complain about this mandate or that mandate, without looking at which ones they really need, then it's a waste of time. Whenever I talk to the schools and to the other subdivisions I say, tell me what is the most burdensome mandate you have, I want to relieve those if I can. But I don't get very specific answers about that and that's what I expect to occur here, is not just a tool or a vehicle to complain or to use and say, well, you know. That's not what I want to see from this and I guess, quite frankly, I want to see some substantive things and say, look, we understand. You know, many of those mandates that people talk about are federal mandates that I can't do a whole lot about. There are some state mandates as well. I just want to know which ones they are. Let me work on them. But I see this as a great opportunity, but I also see this as a shield if we're going to hunker down over the next two years and try to