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worthy...worthy program to take on. And there again, if the federal dollars dry up, I would imagine the state would probably cease to...to fund this. You know, just because it's put in the statutes, if it's in the statute, we argued that all summer about if something is in the statutes, rather than in the constitution, you can change the statutes; you can't change the constitution now. Just because it's in the statutes doesn't mean that it can't be changed if your federal dollars dry up. So, with that, I am going to support Senator Schimek's bill, because I can see where it would probably be more beneficial to this state in the statutes than it is now. And I don't see anything of runaway expenditures either. So therefore, Senator Schimek, I'm going to support this bill, as did seven members of the Government Committee, on our vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I...first of all, I want you to know I voted to advance this bill to the floor for this debate. And I think this debate has been good, and it's certainly good to hear about the volunteerism that we have across this state and how valuable it is to all of us. The only question I have, and I have not spoken out on this, but I've heard a lot of discussion about it. Many of the things that I had to say have probably already been said. But one other question I wanted to ask Senator Schimek, if she was around, and I don't see her...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek. She's on her way to the mike.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But I guess one of the questions I wanted to ask her was, if the state does not contribute this money, does she feel this will cease to exist? And secondly, if the federal government decides to reduce the amount of funding, is it going to ask that the state increase the amount of funding? That's something that was not brought out during the hearing. I just wondered if she has any response to that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek.