

And just as much as Senator Moore's argument that I certainly understand that we're abdicating our responsibility by spending more than we have and sending it to the Governor, we're abdicating our responsibility even worse if we don't start to deal with this issue, and I feel very strongly about that. I will ask you please understand that the Moore amendment reduces the funding to \$1 million, my amendment brings it to the \$4 million that was part of the compromise, the agreement that was made on the budget bill, and I would ask you please to defeat the Moore amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Tonight again I find myself in a rather peculiar position. Most everybody on this floor knows me, and the people back home that know me know my conservative approach to government and how we need to reduce spending, the things that we need to do. But I find myself tonight in a position of looking at people who don't have any choice in this matter, and I look at the situation where we have to establish some type of priorities. And it pains me terribly to say that we're not going to try to take care of the situation that my friend, Senator Byars, so eloquently explained to you, the situation that we're in. You know I always think about this, and I think about prioritizing, how we can...I sat on county government for many years and thought through these same issues, how we can prioritize and how we ought to spend our money wisely and where we ought to put it, where it will do the most good and sometimes I was right and sometimes I was wrong. But we're in a position where can we really afford not to do what is right in this particular case? And, as much as I hate to admit it, I think the truth is we can't. We have to recognize that we have a situation that has to be dealt with, either now or at some later date at probably much greater cost. And so even with as much as I consider myself a conservative, I think this is an issue that I have to think of in terms of prioritizing, and also perhaps being more conservative than one would expect because of what the future might bring as far as future expenditures if we don't address issues that are out there right now. So I'm going to oppose the Moore amendment and support the Byars amendment and try to get...do what I consider to be the right thing. While I'm at it, you know, I always think about all of the sacred cows we have out there and where we could probably make reductions that we don't seem to want to do. And I know that if I would