

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I think the answer to that without thinking very hard would be no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then this is not a license to do anything that you can't do for \$10 and I will have to oppose this very strenuously.

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

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers said mostly what I was going to say and I will give him that he is being consistent because I compare this to the victim assistance programs that we were trying to get through here to get some funding earlier this year and using the same kind of avenues, having a surcharge on crimes and so forth so at that I just wanted to remind you that I don't see that the victim assistance or the victims of other crimes are any different than those victims of domestic abuse. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I rise in support of the legislation that underlies what Senator Bernard-Stevens is offering, but for fear of consequences of amending the bill I have to...I'm not so sure about how to proceed. But let me commend Senator Bernard-Stevens because this bill came into our committee and we had an excellent hearing on this. I believe it was LB 1000, was that correct? And we had excellent testimony and it was actually it was heartbreaking, the discussion about what has happened with domestic violence, the impact that we've seen from the growth in this area and the number of cases and the response to not, we cannot come close to meeting the need to have shelters for these people. There is clearly a problem here. The idea of going to the marriage license fee has always been controversial with Senator Chambers, we understood that, but it does make sense. There is a connection that we thought was there and the committee did unanimously advance the bill. We thought it tied in with the welfare issue. When we had the hearings, the afternoon, the evening and next afternoon on the issue of welfare reform, time and again we heard cases and stories of women who had been abused, had suffered from domestic violence, had had to get away from abusive situations, to find shelter, to