

there are some real concerns about doing it in this particular fashion, but I would urge the body to be very cognizant of the fact that we are not giving a whole lot of money at the present time to support domestic violence programs. There is a tremendous need for a greater level of support. This may not be the funding mechanism that we should use, but we need to very soon address finding support either through general appropriations or some other means of raising the dollars to provide the kind of support that women and children, usually women and children need in order to move away from those domestic violence environments. It is not an easy thing to do, it is often what throws people into needing assistance from the state, and it is connected, although one might question the germaneness of this particular amendment, it is connected with the whole issue of why people end up on welfare in the first place. So, I thank Senator Bernard-Stevens for bringing the bill to the Legislature and hope that in the near future we're going to be able to find a funding mechanism to support it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Bernard-Stevens. There are no further lights, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, I'll constitute this as my closing. Madam President, members of the body, I appreciate the few minutes that we have spent on the issue. Actually, Senator Rasmussen, I think it's as germane...this is as germane to welfare as keeping kids in school was germane to welfare. I think they're exactly the same problem. And quite honestly, Senator Wesely, you know the concern about Senator Chambers' opposition, you know, that doesn't bother me. You know, we'll do battle, and after it's less than eight hours on this particular thing we go cloture and that would be it. But I do sense that on this particular bill at this particular time is not the proper place for this amendment, and I will be withdrawing the amendment. But before I do so I want to say a couple of words on the domestic violence. We have to...I think the body understands, but there is one thing we need to say again, and again, and again, is that in this particular state we have not funded domestic violence the way we need to do so; you know it's a priority to many of us. But as we talk about welfare, much of the problems that we're talking about are underlying economic problems that we have statewide. And I don't care if we're talking urban or rural, we have many economic problems in the rural areas as well. And when you