

There are gaps around the state. Child abuse is on the increase. It has been in recent years, an increase last year of some 41 percent in terms of reported cases. But more specifically it occurs to me that if this amendment is adopted, then the state or the recipients from the general fund appropriation...of the general fund appropriation will not be able to receive any gifts, grants or bequests from the federal government. I do believe that without a trust fund then we would, as a state, be eliminated from receiving grants, gifts or bequests as are specifically enumerated in the Warner amendment. So I would ask the body to vote no on the Beutler amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to support the Beutler amendment. I think we are setting some dangerous precedents with the Warner amendment. You know it is very difficult to stand up on the floor of the Legislature and do anything that may be perceived to be against a bill like LB 333. The intent of LB 333, to establish some mechanisms to help prevent child abuse, is one that everybody would have to agree to. But there are a lot of other worthwhile things that we do as a society as well I would remind you. There are a lot of other ways to abuse people, other than when they are children. There are a lot of people that are abused as spouses, there are a lot of people that are abused as elderly in nursing homes. As a matter of fact is it abuse if the education provided to a child is not as much as it should have been? Is that abuse? They may not be able to do the things in life that they would have been able to otherwise. They may not be able to contribute to society as much as they would have otherwise. Should we, therefore, set up some mechanism to provide an automatic source of funds to prevent spouse abuse, or abuse of the elderly, or to provide for education, so that people don't have to come before the Appropriations Committee and make a pitch each year for funds, justifying their existence. You know when we debated 722 on General File, and when the papers reported 722 and when the Governor talks about 722, we talk about a budget of 840 some million dollars. The fact of the matter is 722 is \$1.9 billion, with a B, but it is cash funds, it is funds that we don't tend to look at very much. Well, it seems to me that setting up trust funds is going to be the exact same thing at some point in time in the future. I can assure you that