

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, do you have another amendment, or a motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler's amendment is on page 2289 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chris Beutler, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this amendment would, basically, appropriate about \$23,000. It's an addition, \$23,000, to move the Ombudsman's Office. The Ombudsman is one of the branches that is under the Executive Board of the Legislature, one of our agencies, departments. It's \$23,000 to move the Ombudsman's Office out of the Capitol Building in order to clear that, 1,000 feet of space, for senators who are upstairs. Now at the beginning I want to say to you that this money is to give the Executive Board the prerogative of looking at that. The Executive Board has not considered this question. This is a question that I want to put to the Executive Board. The whole point of it obviously is to deal with the senators who are on the eighth floor. Now what is happening, you may recall that I asked you to appropriate, reappropriate \$715,000 to the Legislature to deal with the new hearing rooms and to deal with these moves that are necessary on the part of certain senators or to improve the conditions of certain senators. That \$715,000 is being eliminated in the Appropriations Committee amendment which is forthcoming and I am voting for that amendment. I think that all we can do at this point in time is acknowledge that there is not \$715,000 there for that purpose this year. So we're losing that \$715,000. In addition to that \$715,000 please recall that overall this year, overall this year the Appropriations Committee has decreased the amount appropriated to the Legislative Council from last year by over \$1.2 million. Okay, so the Legislature is taking a big hit and we are further giving up the \$715,000 that we would have liked to have used for Capitol renovation. So all those funds are being taken away and what I am asking you to do essentially and effectively is to restore \$23,000 for the one specific move that will help move at least two senators downstairs so that when we have calls of the house they don't have to go catch an elevator and everybody is delayed. It's a big problem. Now with regard to the moving of the Ombudsman's