

concerns, at that time, was that there are also substantial federal funds, as I recall, \$450,000. We had hoped that maybe some portion of those could be used in lieu of the general fund. As I recall, that was one of the conditions on those federal funds, that they could not be used to supplant state funds. When we looked at the list, however, that came from the Governor's Office, and again this was an identified program, I think the discussion in the committee ranged from a number of things like almost every cut that is proposed is never, or hardly ever because the program doesn't have a useful purpose, or it does not have a constituency that it served. I think much of the discussion here was out of concern that this is another area where there is substantial federal funding, that that federal funding could go away, and we might see substantial increase in general fund requests should that occur at some point in the future. While the purpose is worthy, it was in effect repeal of essentially a state...that portion of state funds for this activity at this point. I'd move its adoption.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. There are many here who have not been involved in the last tortured four years of victim-witness assistance. So I would like to speak to those to whom this is a new issue and perhaps even clarify to those of you who have been here who I don't think truly, maybe know the difference between victims reparation and victim-witness assistance, and who probably have forgotten, if you ever cared, that for the past two decades courts and legislatures have been mandating and legislating rights for the criminal and the accused while victims have gone often overlooked and ignored and many times treated more like evidence by our criminal justice system than actually people. People who have been traumatized, through no fault of their own, have witnessed the break down of our law and order on the streets of our country and of our communities. I think this cartoon that I am handing out explains that very well. A victim is victimized and the law, justice, the attorneys, the courts, and finally even our care in corrections walks right by and ignores, and often further victimize them in the courts. I did pass out the "Nebraska Offenders Rights Versus Victims Rights," as well as what happens to the victim and what do they go through. I don't think you can fully appreciate it unless you or another member of your family has been a victim. One