

investment, not only that we will receive \$400,000 automatically from the federal government if we maintain our programs, without any percentages, without any strings, but it also is that investment that is the quickest, the closest, the most understanding with volunteers and people who have gone through that process volunteering often to help others through the trauma and the criminal justice system, and help them in their understanding and in their ability to recover and go back to their normal life as much as they can after being a victim.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Time has expired. There are no other lights on at this time, so the Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd yield to Senator Scofield to close.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Members of the Legislature, I'm not going to insult Senator Pirsch by saying this hurts me as much as it does you, because I know how deeply committed you are to this program, Senator Pirsch. But you will recall last year that I was the person that made the motion to reconsider the Governor's veto. I think this is a good program. My concern about this program, and the reason that I would urge you to support the committee amendment, is because of a long-term concern that I have. Senator Pirsch has already done a good job of explaining the program. She has also accurately pointed out that at this point we don't serve very much of the state with this program. In fact, the western part of the state has almost no services for victims. What this tells me is that over the long run we are committing ourselves to pick up a program which is probably unlikely to be funded into the long-term future by the federal government. Once again we will find ourselves with a program that we have established, that people have come to value, in fact come to be somewhat dependent upon. When the federal funds are removed we are, once again, committed to pick those up. So, as good a program as it is, I would urge you to stick with the committee's amendments on this because I have grave concerns about our long-term ability to pick up the program and fund it adequately across the state. With that, I will give the rest of my time to Senator Hannibal.