

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Madam Chair and members, I'll take just a moment because as Senator Scofield has pointed out, asking for the elimination of this funding is in no way saying the program is not worthy. Our problems, as you are all aware, is that we have a lot of worthy programs and we only have a finite number of funds. Just a little bit of history on this particular agency, the victim-witness assistance program. As a committee we had the program struck from the preliminary list. The agency then came in and said to us that...talked to us about the \$400,000 federal funds. We had to keep the administrative costs in place in order to use those funds. The committee added the program back in to the bill that you see right now. We have then since taken it back out because of the financial problems we have in the state right now and the fiscal problem we have within the Legislature. The decision I think that you need to make when you are going to vote on this amendment is, would you cut the general fund appropriation, \$90 some thousand, \$84,000, would you cut that out of this program whether or not there were federal funds involved? To have a program just because there are federal funds is a different policy decision than to have a program strictly with general funds. I think that it is important that when you make a decision on this that you don't consider that it is just to grab federal funds. We need to look at the worthiness of the program by itself, and we need to decide whether we can afford it in light of our fiscal problems that we have. I will stay with the committee amendment. I reluctantly have to support it. I know it's been a good program, but I would urge this body to eliminate this funding and hope for better times in the future.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: The question before us is the adoption of...or the deletion of Section 39. All those in favor...the adoption of Section 39. All those in favor of adopting Section 39 vote aye.

CLERK: Senator Morehead voting yes.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Vote if you care to vote. We'll allow 20 more seconds for voting. Nine and counting. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.