

Nebraska, along with other states, drew attention to the federal, and I will talk about that later. You have helped victims understand the workings of plea bargaining, allowed them to submit a victim impact statement before sentencing, and how important is that? It is a way that the victim does have an opportunity and sometimes their only opportunity. But they need help now. Most victims don't know that they have rights under the law. They don't know that they have a right to a victim impact statement. That is where victim witness assistance centers come in, not just for Lincoln, not just for Kearney, not just for Omaha. You notice some of this literature which is the same is from Sarpy County; North Platte, Chadron and Beatrice are establishing volunteer programs. That is wonderful, and that is the beauty of this program is that it is spreading. It is spreading with very few dollars and a lot of volunteer help.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH: What we want to do is to extend that help with those federal funds, \$400,000 of them, which will become available to us if we have victim witness units in Nebraska. Is that time? Okay.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very brief, I rise in support of the Pirsch amendment. Some time ago this Legislature did establish a Crime Victims Reparations Board. I'm a little embarrassed at the way it has been managed. I've not been satisfied with it. It is kind of interesting that they have handed out only a few dollars over the years to those victims, but at the same time many millions of dollars have been spent on the perpetrators of crime. I appreciate the fact that Senator Pirsch has taken a deep interest in this. She's done an excellent job. She's pursued it with diligence. I would like to suggest that she has an excellent amendment and it ought to be supported. I urge your support of that amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator John DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All