

a sizable dollar amount to treat them all the same, if we choose to do it. But I think at this point in time it is premature just to appropriate money to Region IV for that issue. And so for both the reasons I've stated on both issues, there are actually two separate issues, I rise to oppose both of them. Actually the two of them together, it's a quarter of a million dollar issue, and that's another thing to think of as we vote on this issue. So I rise in opposition to the two amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members of the body. Just a clarification that our region is not the only region that has other difficulties, as Region III has just advised me that the other regions do have difficulties. Our region, Region IV, doesn't have funding to put an adequate system into place. The other regions do have systems in place, and ours does not at this time. That's why we have a crisis right now, because we don't have funding to put an adequate system into place. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise strongly to oppose this amendment, especially the one part in Region IV, which is in my district. My county commissioner has been in contact with me numerous times since fall, and it is my understanding that in Region IV there's a 4-bed unit already has been set up in our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and is working. And he says definitely we do not need more money. This is a Dr. Sanders, if any of you are acquainted with Dr. Sanders, he's a big bureaucrat up there that tries to build a kingdom. What he'd like to do is build a 15-bed unit and make it...use this additional money for...for that. DPI has gone along with this 4-bed, but is adamantly opposed to what they want to do in the future. I don't know where you ladies and gentlemen think we're going to get all this money that we're adding, may add on here, but this is a lot of money just on this amendment alone. I strongly rise to oppose it. My county commissioner is on that board and has told me that some of his commissioners up there say that they do not need this additional money, that everything is going fine, everything is in place for the four beds. I strongly ask you to not support this amendment.