

SENATOR MOORE: And I believe your next amendment is another \$125,000 for the present fiscal year, correct, Senator Pirsch? You know, if the body is of the mind to do this, you may...you may want to...in the present fiscal year, this entity really has a problem because of some law changes last year which allowed some of the Crime Commission board members to serve as hearing officers. There's been much more activity in the victims' assistance area and so they are literally out of money for this fiscal year. One thought would be, obviously, if you really wanted to do this, one possibility would be to reject this amendment of Senator Pirsch's and you could still solve the problem for this year at least by accepting Senator Pirsch's second amendment. I guess I will vote no on either one of those but a thought would be you could solve the problem this fiscal year, indeed, there is a problem there. So I rise to oppose Senator Pirsch's amendment for not because it's not a good cause, simply because there's not the money to fund this program this year. And, with that, I would urge the body to reject Senator Pirsch's amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Moore. The next speaker is Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of Senator Pirsch's amendment and I do so recognizing the correctness of Senator Moore's numbers and I respect the Appropriations Committee Chairman's numbers and I know Senator Pirsch does also. And I am always agreeable to work out some kind of an arrangement but I do want to point that there is a very immediate need. Right now, the Crime Victims Reparations Board has approved \$89,000 worth of payments and they are out of money. Their annual...their average award is only \$2,000. The maximum is 10,000. They have, I believe, 63 pending cases right now. But I want to talk about something else just a little different. Senator Pirsch gave me credit for the introduction of the original legislation and that is correct, but I would not be honest if I did not tell you that Senator Pirsch has dramatically improved the program. She has improved the accountability. She has improved the efficiency and she has improved the overall acceptance of the program and I think that we have not given her proper credit for the effort she has expended in that area. The program, as it stands today, is in the position it is, a very commendable position, principally because of her continuing efforts. And I'm not one who usually gives up the pride of authorship very easily, as most of you