

we're going to put these people behind bars, we're going to make a mandatory minimum, and, by golly, we'll show them a lesson, when the only thing that happens is when we take one off the street somebody else fills right in, if not one, two more fill in, and we can't stop them. Some of our counties are so wide open to drugs and abuse that it's a sieve, it's a sieve and the law enforcement people can...are powerless to do anything about it because they don't have the staff, the tools, the personnel to handle it. That's where we need to go. That's where we need to be to stop the drug problem. And Senator Chambers, in one area particularly, struck a chord with me when he said, this is not going to solve a problem. In fact, it will create another problem, because you know, members in the body, how we are beginning to feel about that \$10 million that Senator Hannibal so ably spoke of, and people are saying, gee, why do we need that? We don't want to face that problem. So, if one of the reasons is kind of discouraging, is that 592 might not make it, it may be because of the budgetary reasons that we had because of the jails and what have you, what we don't want to do, not because we're not doing anything to solve the problem. Kind of discouraging. One section of the bill that also concerns me is on page 7 when we get to, this section shall not be eligible for parole prior to serving mandatory minimum sentence, no discretion whatsoever. I know of particular circumstances of people who are victims, not all, some people who are victims and are into selling for someone else for various reasons. They get caught. The circumstances become known, or the family and pressures, the certain environment, this disease or sickness that has struck their family, why the person was getting involved for the money, those circumstances become known. And legislation like this, there is no discretion,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...no discretion of being able to show leniency or some other alternative to help the person. And the person who is really behind the selling is not going to be here, is not going to be the one that we're talking about in this piece of legislation, in my view. I hope the Legislature is serious when we talk about doing something to the problem. This bill will not help the problem, this bill may create some problems. But do not get a false sense of security that we're going to solve and help the drug problem out there. Talk to any law enforcement official out there and they'll tell you they need help, they need funds, they need the tools. And we have