SENATOR HANNIBAL: And I do understand that we have a lot of vacant buildings out there and we have some capacity. To answer your question, however, the Department of Public Institutions is a code agency and as a code agency the director is appointed by the Governor. The director can be fired by the Governor. So I would say, first and foremost, the Department of Public Institutions is directly answerable to the Governor through the director.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: So, we as a Legislature, would have to pass some controlling laws over them? I mean, are we totally hands off?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Oh, not at all, not at all, no. I think it's...

SENATOR KORSHOJ: If we give them the money, I thought we would have some say-so.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: When I said ... when I said we shouldn't be in the middle of their operations, we are in the middle of their operations because we are discussing their budget and we're going to pass it. It comes through our committee. It comes through the Governor's budget. It comes through our committee and we listen to all the pros and cons of the requests by not only the department themselves but everybody else, including Senator Peterson who came to our committee and talked about this very issue when the hearings were up. We go through that three different times and we look at their budget and we talk with them about that and we make determinations as to whether we think what they are asking for is correct or incorrect, too high, too low, right. And in this particular case, we have had that dialogue and the director said here is what we think we need and we, as a committee, said we agree. We funded their entire budget, their entire request. It doesn't look like we gave them any new money because we maximized their cash because they had...they had about \$900,000...\$900,000 of excess cash funds over their estimate, so we maximized that. If they didn't have that, you would see a million dollar increase in their But we basically gave them whatever they said they needed. At this point, my feeling is it's no longer our need on this floor to say, you didn't ask for enough and you didn't ask for the right things because we listened to what they asked for and we did...and we listened for how they asked for it. asked for a million three for OBRA, the Nursing Home Reform Act