

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Thank you. Senator Abboud. Senator Abboud. Senator Wesely, there are no other lights on, would you care to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. You know, I really don't enjoy having to oppose some of these pieces of legislation but there is a certain responsibility we all have as we have been involved in issues and we see things happen, and to share with you the history involved with them. I think any of you that have passed legislation and then seen it ignored would understand how I feel. Any of you that have worked with the department and had them give you their word that they were going to do something, and have them break their promises, ignore the programs that they said they would work on, would feel just as I do, frustrated and angry, outraged at the sort of flaunting of executive power that we have seen with this department. Maybe you have had that experience, maybe you haven't. I have passed a lot of bills, I have worked on a lot of programs. I have never had the experiences I have had in this area like I have had in the Department of Economic Development. I don't know what it is over there. I don't know why they feel they can do this, but to have them time and again promise they are going to do something, and then turn around and absolutely not do it, and then come in with a bill now to eliminate a program that they promised time and again they were going to pursue, I just can't stand by and let that happen. I handed out for you the child was born...this child is a victim of neglect. It is a form of child abuse and it is about to die, and it may have been a child that people didn't care about. It is the one that I cared about and I certainly simply feel that to allow it to happen without some objection is wrong, and it is more than that. This bill would also eliminate the advisory committee that we set up for community development block grants. Why did we set up an advisory committee for community development block grants and give them the authority to make the decisions in that area? Because when we didn't have that, the department came in, changed the program in the middle of the stream, didn't really let people know about it, and all over the state towns were upset because the rules had been changed on them in the middle of the ball game, and they came down here and all of us that were concerned tried to do something about it, and we decided we are not going to let that happen again, we are going to have citizens on an advisory committee making sure that that doesn't happen. You are going to eliminate that oversight and I think