

program which will include testing, processing and other administrative matters before the person is transferred to the regional center for full-fledged treatment. We believe this program can be added with relatively little additional cost. Frankly, though, given the severity of the problem, whatever the tag might be, I think it is worth it. The important thing is though that all MDSO's will immediately, upon passage of this bill, be in the MDSO program. Therefore, no guilty plea will be set aside, and there will be no new trial for prosecutors and victims to contend with. Finally, the amendment allows a judge, upon the recommendation of a health professional at the regional center, to remove a person from the treatment program, if, after further evaluation at the regional center, the person is found to be nontreatable. I've talked with Senator Schmit, and he has assured me that they will support this amendment. And I urge the body to adopt this amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there discussion on the amendment to the committee amendment? Senator Labedz, your light is on, followed by Senator Wesely on the committee amendments. Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, yes. Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in support of the Chizek amendment. I did work with Senator Chizek on this amendment and am very aware of the problem that he's just identified for you. I think Senator Hannibal and the Appropriations Committee, Senator Wehrbein have already are aware of the problem as well. And we, as a body yesterday, did adopt, I think, I think pretty much unanimously, additional appropriations of over a million more dollars to the Department of Public Institutions to fund and staff the need for expanded MDSO program out at the regional center. Really, basically, it comes down to I think it's been well summarized by Senator Chizek that we have had statutes on the books that have required certain things to be done, and we have not funded the programs to do those things, that being the treatment of these mentally disordered sex offenders. So, as a result, judges are very nervous. I know in Lancaster County I did meet with Judge McGinn about individuals who pled guilty, are ready to move into the system for treatment and punishment for their crimes, and now, because of the backlog in the programs, the fear is that they will have to throw out those guilty pleas and either those individuals are set free or have to go through the trial once again, which is an absolutely ridiculous situation to be in. And it's got the judges very concerned; and, of course, it