

should concern all of us. We don't want to have anybody in a situation whose a mentally disordered sex offender released again among the public before they have had treatment, or before they've served their time. That's exactly where we're at, however. So the funding that was provided for in the Hannibal amendment and Wehrbein amendment, yesterday, will provide the million dollars over this year and next fiscal year to provide the adequate support that we need within the Department of Public Institutions. I will have to be providing an additional amendment that is not yet available that would add a couple of staff people to the correctional department because of their needs to meet this backlog problem. But, clearly, from a health and human service perspective and as oversight for the Department of Public Institutions I can tell you that we've got a time bomb ticking right now, and we've got to deal with it. The short-term is to do the funding and to deal with the inadequate program and services. The longer term we need to deal with as well with the task force that is being formed. But in the intermediate time this amendment deals with the statutory straitjacket that we've placed ourself in that needs to be loosened up a little bit so that we don't have a situation where we are having to release these individuals without having the chance to provide the treatment or the time that they need to spend for whatever crimes they've committed. So I'm very concerned about this. I think that the amendment is quite reasonable. Again, what it provides for is the ability to take care of MDSO's, not only in the regional center, but other secure medical facilities, that gives us a little flexibility there. In addition, it says that on the treatment side of things that if it's determined that a person will not respond to treatment it doesn't require that they be provided that treatment. Obviously, those individuals with that problem, if they do not want treatment, do not respond, do not think they have a problem and will not be able to deal with the treatment, we are wasting time and money dealing with that. And right now the statute has no flexibility in this area. I think that this is a very reasonable request and I would hope it would have very strong support as we try and deal with this very important problem. So I would ask your support for the Chizek amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers. Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Abboud, on the Chizek amendment.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, I'd like to talk a little bit about just the amendments in general, and then touch upon