

counseling. That could be monitoring. That could be sort of like an outpatient treatment for alcoholism because these, most of these people, those are diseases that occur. The flexibility that's here also allows that a mental health board could be convened by the judge at that time or the county attorney would file those and you'd have a mental health board and maybe that person does need to be committed for a long period of time to the regional center if there's issues of public safety. The bill talks about issues of public safety, for incarceration, possibilities to do that. The other provisions of the bill allow for rules and regulations. If someone does not want to be treated, if they can't be treated, if they're uncooperative they're going to wind up in the Department of Corrections. Corrections does have some treatment possibilities and some treatment options, although it isn't as extensive. If I was a senator sitting here today, I'd be concerned about two things. One, is this going to work? Two, if we leave the system as it is are we going to be sued? We've already been sued once because of the waiting list because we physically can't give them what we've promised them to do. We don't have enough beds in the regional center, we don't have enough people who can give them treatment, and, by and large, the system has just ground to a halt to a crisis point of view, from a legal liability point of view. We're also not doing very much for public safety in that point of view if we automatically just say, look, we've got a big waiting list, if you don't get treatment within six months, usually what happens, you get six months to show your willingness to do something under the current system and, if you don't, we kick you into the penitentiary. In effect, those people may well be walking time bombs and when their sentence is over there's no more care, there's nothing else. It's just off they walk. So I think that this system does provide us with more protection and gives us a little more flexibility in that area. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have and I would urge the advancement of LB 523.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I rise in support of LB 523 and ask for your support as well. I anticipate that there will be, but I thought, for the record, I would indicate some of the background on the piece of legislation. It was two years ago almost that Judge McGinn got a hold of me here in Lancaster County, indicated there were some cases pending that could possibly lead to the release of a