

January 29, 1992 LB 523

last time on General File where we talked about the problems with the system that creates the waiting lines. We're having to take more beds away from the criminally dangerous people to make more beds in the Regional Center just because of our system. That's not true. This bill gives more protections. And, Senator Beutler, the reason I get a little exercised is you're saying and you're telling people that this is going to let them out earlier and it's going to be a bigger risk to society, and that is the exact opposite of what this bill is going to do. And if you think that...and I go down this list of people on the task force and you've got Ron Bartee from the Parole Board, you've got Buckley, a District Judge, you've got Assistant Attorney Generals here, you've got people from the Sentence Review Committee, you've got people from the Administration of Courts and Probations, from Corrections, other district judges. You've got medical service providers from the Department of Public Institutions. You've got people from the Board of Psychiatry, people from Probation and people from the Legislature on this committee, and do you really think that they would draft a bill that would allow...let people out early and be a danger to society? That's really what you're hinting to us. And I want to...I want you to stand up and if that's...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...what it is, I want you to tell me that, then let's discuss that issue. But I don't want you to mislead the Legislature that this bill is somehow going to let people out early and be a danger to society because that's wrong. I would oppose the amendment because it places the burden on the professional staff. Their job is to treat. Their job is not to make the ultimate decisions on whether somebody gets released or not, that's the court's job. And if a judge makes a mistake, you do it. Second point and final point I want to make is you can't use the word "cure". There is not a cure. These people learn how to behave in society and if you keep them in the Regional Center, they may work real well in that small, little Regional Center environment. Some day, we can't warehouse them forever, some day they've got to go out and act in society. So what you need to do is you've got to treat them to the point where they learn to control themselves in society. They're not going to be cured. You just can't waive that little wand and their...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.