

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...illness goes away. But they've got to learn to behave in society. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, let me say, to begin with, that I don't care who says this is a good thing. I don't care how many people, I don't care what their backgrounds are, I think I have a healthy respect for their opinion but, in the end, I push the button. And, in the end, I'm going to be the one responsible for releasing people onto the public. If they are not prepared to be released onto the public, it is going to be this Legislature that takes the heat and me, individually, if I vote for it. No one is arguing about aftertreatment. Aftertreatment is essential. There should be a period of time of transition. Aftertreatment can occur, in my opinion, during the time of normal parole or if it can't, we should allow it to. The parole period can be a period of years. Why is it that we should let these people out before their parole period is up, if I'm understanding it right, and have them out in society before they've even served the time for their offense? Now, Senator Kristensen, I am not intentionally misleading this Legislature and I do not believe that I am misleading them. And let me ask you just in terms of one specific example if this is not a possibility. Let's say we have an individual who has been convicted of first degree sexual assault and let's say that the minimum sentence is 15 years, with good time, whatever, I think it would come around to about ten years they would be eligible for parole, something like that, maybe not exactly. Now, under this bill, if a person is chosen for treatment, if they're appropriate, they can go through this program and this program could be as short as a few months, could it not, because it depends on when they get maximum benefit or how much benefit there is. And then the Department of Public Institution and the court can decide to release them essentially into society because they can release them into an aftertreatment program which will have more or less conditions established on it. And tell me, in the context of this specific example, couldn't they do that at the end of, say, two years or three years or four years instead of that individual serving the 10 years that he would have to serve in prison before he would be eligible for parole? Is that...just tell me if that's true or not true.