

Beutler's example was, the violent criminal. The violent criminal is going to be in the Penitentiary. Treatment is not part of their system. The person that goes out and commits a violent crime is a criminal. We're generally talking about people who have mental illnesses, who commit crimes but they generally are not necessarily crimes of violence. They're the pedophiles. They're the sick individuals that go through society. What you do is that the court needs to make that ultimate decision. The bill does not allow these people to be released early. This amendment is merely, I believe, an attempt to dilute that system that we've got in the bill, and it's that dilution that makes me nervous. Senator Pirsch, I think, misses the point of what we're talking about with mental health. Mental health doesn't have a cure. There isn't a point in time where you say, you're okay. The key here is that you've got to allow the court to make that decision for public protection. You can't delegate that to anyone else. The court will take into consideration the Department of Public Institutions' treatment, their recommendations. They make those recommendations now. There's rules and regulations talking about procedures for making those recommendations. You can't also make the Legislature write the rules and regulations. In a way, that's what this is trying to do is write the rules and regulations for giving the court that information. It just is a beginning to unravel and make the system even more clumsy than it is now. Madam President, I would urge the defeat of the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Madam President. I apologize, Senator Kristensen, I haven't been following this debate as well as I should have but you had some key phrases that I kind of picked up on and I would like you to answer a few questions, if you could.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR ROBAK: You say you can't cure mental illness, you can only control their behavior. Is that documented by a physician or medical AMA, or how do you get your documentation for that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak, that's not what I said. I'm talking about mental...