

because, Senator Morrissey, you know we all guess in the handicap issues before the vote, but my sense of visiting with legislators is LB 145 is in pretty serious trouble at the moment, and probably is not going to pass in its current form. And if we want to promote the idea of family medical leave, which I think is a good policy, it's just not necessarily one that the government ought to be mandating. Not everything that's good policy for...for individuals ought to become part of our state statutes. But if we believe that it is good policy, we're probably going to be...do more to promote that policy by adopting the Bernard-Stevens amendment, making family medical leave be a policy as it relates to state employees, than we will be to leave 145 in its current form and see it not enacted. With those thoughts, I will be supporting Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I think I'll yield my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, as Senator Wesely knows, I offer this amendment in very, very good faith, and he understands that. I am, Senator Withem, very, very concerned about the bill, particularly when I hear people such as Senator Withem and others who are very supportive of these types of policies, saying that as 145 is now, he would not be able to be supportive, but he would be able to support something along this line as a positive step forward. I think that is the sense of the body. In fairness to Senator Wesely, he has come and asked me to do...to do something of which I am going to do in a minute. I'm not yet ready to, but I am going to, in a few minutes, withdraw my amendment. There is a friendly kill motion, Senator Wesely wants to put it aside until next week. And I think that's a fair way, because others can go through and do the vote count, as I've tried to do, and they can come back and say, yeah, we really are in trouble, this might be a better way to go. I do want to talk to Senator...about Senator Morrissey's suggestion, a dilemma that he felt himself in. And I want to remind the body that this is a difficult type of thing to do, offer an amendment of this nature, because if I am correct and the bill is in trouble, the only way to find that out is to bring the bill up for advancement to Select File. If