

and spends, allocates the funds of the state, we ought to as well follow up on that. We may be guilty of not doing a good enough job in that regard in the past but I think 988, as it's currently before us, without the Schimek amendment, allows us to begin doing a better job to that end. And I would support the bill but urge you to vote against the Schimek amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, it appears that part of the discussion on the Schimek amendment also goes to the bill so I think it's probably easiest for me to make both of my comments at the same time. This bill became attractive to me last summer in terms of when there was some debate and some examining of what we needed to do for legislative performance and for program evaluation and the frustration, of course, came when we start to look at programs and are they doing what we, as the Legislature, want them to do. And I guess it's my basic philosophy that the Legislature creates many of these programs with a very specific intent. And I know that each one of us have had our program or our area that we pay special attention to and as long as we're around or as long as we have some knowledge, we sort of shepherd those things through ourselves. But in terms of having an organized system of evaluation, is that program doing what the Legislature intended to do? Now that becomes very difficult to do unless you have some structure, such as 988. And I think 988 does give us an institutional ability to evaluate our own programs. If the Legislature creates the programs, who is better to judge and evaluate if the programs are doing what we intended them to do? And that's the philosophy that I signed onto the bill with. That's the philosophy I think is probably a good one. The State Auditor did have some discussions with me. He sparked my interest because of his desire to be the fact finder. And I think that that...the role that he sees himself in as being the fact finder, I don't have a problem with that but I think it probably runs in the face of what I, at this point, believe the goals and the objectives of 988 are, and that if the Legislature does create the programs, there is nobody else better to evaluate those for our own purposes, for our own use and for our own methods, and that the Auditor may well take an objective view based on numbers, facts and figures and not look at necessarily the intent that the Legislature was here, certainly the Auditor can't monitor the Legislature on a day to day basis