

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Witek to speak to the substituted Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I...I guess I have mixed feelings on the Bernard-Stevens amendment because I don't intend to vote for the Crosby amendment. And, you know, there's that thought of trying to put it into if there's enough people to pass the Crosby amendment, what we want to do with that, but if...if we do pass the Bernard-Stevens amendment and then the Crosby amendment, I will...I do have an amendment on that to add some more people to this task force, people who are taxpayers and not involved at all because it seems most of the members of the task force are either government employees or there are some people from the community that are involved in some of the government entities out in the communities, the county government, et cetera. But I guess my bottom line is we don't have a fiscal note on this again. And I know, you know, it's...I know you can't get it from Fiscal until it's adopted, but if you had some kind of a round figure for what these things cost when you're bringing them to the floor, just...just some kind of a round figure that you could hand out to the floor to say, I mean, how many people are on this committee, if you start to count how many people are on this committee and are we going to pay them per diem and how many times is the committee going to meet, and those kind of, you know, questions that if we're supposed to be seriously considering something like this, which, you know, I'll be right up front and honest, I don't want to put together another impact study on this. We're trying to...I thought we were going to reform welfare to save some money because I think that that's part of the problem is the cost of these programs. And I know we're trying to get it to transition people into a job, I think that's a good goal, and not have it something that they can do for the rest of, you know, however length of time that they want to be on it. So those are all good goals and I thought those were the goals that we were supposed to be discussing here on the floor of the Legislature, not more commissions and more people and saying, well, we'll go ahead and pass this but we'll make it, you know, changing the dates of when it's effective or when we have to get the, as in Bernard-Stevens amendment, when we have to get this report that they're going to put together. This...I hope that the body will...will discuss it for a certain length of time but then get to a vote on this. There's a list of, I don't know how many different amendments on this bill, I wish it could have come to the floor in a little different shape. I know I fought the