

that we may have to in fact work through that system some way. So, with that, I appreciate your time and I reward you for your endeavors to continue with this dialogue. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers, on the McKenzie amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I know that this amendment is going to be adopted, I know this bill is probably going to be moved, but I'm not comfortable with it at all. And I'm speaking in general terms because I know there's not enough time left to go into specifics on this amendment, so I'm not going to do it. You all will have to read it and draw your own conclusions as I've drawn mine. But the key phrase in all of this to me is block grants. As I was discussing this with Senator Schimek, and I've talked about it to some of the others of you, even Senator Bernard-Stevens, and he's in favor of this bill, it seems to me that whatever happens at the federal level is to be replicated at the state level, even using the same terminology. On all these so called welfare reform measures they started with crack-brained notions in Washington, and right now in New Jersey, which was one of the first states to implement all of that they're backing away from it and saying that the bill has not achieved the results that they were boastfully saying had been achieved. Now here's Clinton saying that the bill passed by the House on so called welfare reform has done nothing as far as providing work assistance to these women, but it's very punitive toward children and he'll veto it. We don't have anybody at the state level who will veto the bad bill that we're facing. This is political activity. I'm not saying those supporting this bill are politically motivated. But we are at a political moment in time where whatever happens at Washington and seems to have momentum filters down to the states and an attempt is made to derive momentum from that. And I see this still as what the Governor would like to do. And the key phrase, as I was going to say, is block grant. That is federal terminology. And when you're going to completely or radically alter a program such as this dealing with children who are the most vulnerable it takes a lot to persuade me that they are not going to be harmed. This list of findings that I had discussed very briefly with Senator McKenzie, on page 1393 of the Journal, are things which should have been done. If you're going to expend money even on a pilot program then some determination should have been made of what an appropriate amount is. This is a very extensive amendment, not