

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Debate ceases. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to close?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Crosby, members of the body. This was the bracket motion to put up to try to focus the debate maybe in a little bit different direction. I share Senator Schimek's frustration that sometimes we don't get to the real meat of the issue that we'd like to get to, but sometimes there are so many other meat pieces around, that we have to kind of gather up our scraps and see where we are at before we can move on. One of the things like from experience on the juvenile justice bill, in the beginning of the bill that we passed a year ago, that we are still waiting for Omaha to give us some type of site for the secure facility, but that's another subject for another time, one of the difficulties was that the departments, themselves were not...were actually opposing the concept, opposed the bill because a lot of the areas they actually were going to have to share, and they are going to have to give up some of their turf. And we had a meeting in the Governor's Office, and to the Governor's credit, he said, no, no, this is something that we are going to do, and the agencies looked at it closer and Mary Dean Harvey and others came forward and said we can make this work. And there was a tremendous working relationship, but in the beginning, the departments were very, very reluctant to do certain things. In the past, we have had Social Services and foster care, and some of the difficulties we have had between those two groups so far as just simply not even getting along. Whenever you get them into a room, it is hard to even have the room leave without some type of argument taking place, and that frustration you have with departments and agencies, you know, grows the longer that you are here. In this particular case, we have an agency, Social Services, who said they just didn't want to do the visitation portion, and that they are going to need a lot more money and other things if they were going to do it. We had the...Senator Lindsay and Senator Day and the Governor and, apparently, Senator Chambers, the Judiciary Committee minus you, were at a meeting and decided that visitation would be a part of it, and now it is not. And at some point you have to say, before all of these other pieces can be talked about, we need to get the principal people in the room with all things on the table and say, look, let's decide where we are going to go, what are we going to do on this. And