

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Wehrbein, if I could again ask you to follow through on the discussion we had towards the end.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: My understanding was and again, to be fair, that was in the conversation with you earlier that we had that at one point the committee was given the indication that 700,000 would be probably proper, but they could get by and probably do it on less than that. We had talked earlier where there may be a problem of the paper trail following that. If you could take a couple minutes of my time and take what you need to kind of explain why...why a lesser amount wasn't going to work, and even if it would have worked, the paper trail that you were talking about, why it would have been difficult to follow that. I would appreciate that if you could.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, if you...say you cut it back to 500,000, you're going to have some dilemmas with people that are currently working. You would...you would...that would be gone, so you'd take...and it...many of those...I don't know how, when I say "many" it may not be a lot. We have 309 as of April 1st, if I recall right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Say several would be laid off and lose their job permanently so they would not be in the agency to help them out so there would be a loss. That was one way, but we had several that are ongoing that needed to be in the agency and that...so it is simply a matter of not having enough spending authority to cover it and we just felt if you go back and recode, which is the other option, then that trail that shows five years from now that we had a high use of SOS use would not be there because they would show up as permanent employees. Now, obviously, that would raise havoc with the hiring freeze and all those things on paper. I understand that. But the point would be it's lots of work to recode to make that trail...make that and the trail would be lost and so down the road you'd say, well, what do you mean there was a problem with