

of circumventing the system when LB 582 was introduced during the time that this program was up for sunset review and was being considered by the Performance Review Committee, but somehow it is improper for us to be doing that with this amendment at this time. And I fail to understand the distinction. Both of those are not necessarily going through the system. At least this amendment of Senator Robinson has the support of members of the Performance Review Committee, at least the ones that...I am trying to remember who the other members of that committee are, but you've heard from the Chair of that committee. You have heard from another member, and as I remember, it is a five-member committee. I believe Senator Wehrbein is on that committee, and I haven't really paid a lot of attention to what Senator Wehrbein's position is on this measure, but this is not a program that we ought to sunset. So I would indicate...I probably won't even speak on whether it is an idea of the loan or the grant program makes more sense, but I do strenuously object to the language that would remove the sunset. So I would ask you to vote no on this amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, yours is the last light. I assume you do not want to use this to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Oh, I think I can use it to close, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Thank you for the information. I don't...it is not really my intent to drag this out forever. I just feel very strongly that the weatherization program over the years has been an excellent program. It has...I mean they know, they have calculated, school districts have told them their energy savings costs, their energy savings by virtue of the different loans they have made out over time, and it comes to over a million dollars a year in annual savings. So it has been a good program. Whether they need all the money that is in there, that's debatable. That's debatable. Let me make the...make sure that you are clear on the question. If you vote for this part of the Beutler amendment, and assuming the whole amendment is adopted, then what will happen will be that the weatherization program will continue, it will not sunset unless the Program Evaluation Committee comes in and probably...and recommends the sunset, if they should do that. But, but it wouldn't continue to be a 14 million dollar a year program. It wouldn't even continue to be an 8 million dollar program, which is roughly what they have loaned out now, but it would continue at the level of a 4 million dollar program, okay. It will be