

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I want to throw out some facts as I understand them and if these are not accurate, ask those who are in favor of boot camps to respond to it. But my present intention is to vote for the Withem amendment for three reasons. One, because I think that this proposal does not represent anything less expensive in terms of continuing operating costs than a regular facility. I don't think it's as secure as a regular facility and I think quite possibly this might be used as a vehicle to be soft on crime rather than to be tough on crime, and let me...let me tell you why. First of all, looking at the fiscal note, it seems that the ongoing operating costs of this boot camp will be somewhat over \$2 million a year. It's anticipated that it would be a 100-bed unit. That means the cost per bed on operating costs is something up around 21,000 or so, which is not a whole lot less than the costs at an ordinary facility. So I'm not sure that you save all that much money in terms of ongoing operating costs. What is of more concern to me is the indication that the average inmate stay is anticipated to be four to six months. Well, that's not very long and I don't think that's nearly long enough for a boot camp kind of regime to be imprinted on anybody's personality or mind. But what concerns me about that four to six months is that then there is a provision in the bill that, after they have successfully completed the boot camp, which is anticipated to be four to six months, the sentencing court may place the offender...the choices are on an appropriate form of probation, in other words out with the public, or discharge the offender. Those are the alternatives. So these are people who have committed felonies and we're going to encourage that they go to a boot camp, which is only four to six months, and then they're back out with the public again. All of that seems quite contrary to me to what the intent and purpose of the rest of the bill is. And I think what we are all trying to do is to figure out ways to make the public more secure. It seems to me that at least the way that we're going to have to go back and have some major restructuring in the way this boot camp is designed if our intent is to...is to create a tougher stance with regard to inmates. There arises, I think, also an equity question when you start using this mechanism also. If you don't get to go to a boot camp then do you have to serve out the normal felony offense sentences? I guess you do. So those who get to go to the boot camp, that's