

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, one thing that I did not mention before that just needs to be said in this area when we are talking about recovery from addiction. And we come back to what I had talked about on the boot camps, whether it be defiance, starting in defiance and going to compliance and to acceptance. Usually this is not reached without some consequences. People do not just walk into treatment centers, and into counseling offices and say, you know, 've decided I've got a problem with drugs or I've got a problem with alcohol, and I want to get well. Well, what made you think you've got a problem with alcohol and you've got a problem with drugs? Nothing, I just thought I did. That doesn't happen. They come in and said I've got two DWIs, my parents won't speak to me anymore, my wife is leaving, the fines are too much, I am broke, physically and mentally disgusted with myself. Consequences, I've been in jail twice. I have been in prison and I don't want to go back, consequences. And I don't mind talking about my own history, and I will tell you how it happened for me being a person who is addicted. I didn't all of a sudden one day decide I wanted to quit drinking. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I was broke, busted, and disgusted. I had lost some of the best jobs I ever had. I had no self-worth, and a whole bunch of things that happened that hurt, and I decided I wanted to change. Luckily, somehow I never had to go to jail, but there was consequences there involved, and when I decided one day that things were only going to get worse, the next thing I was probably going to lose was my family, I decided I wanted to do something different than that. I tell you that story only because consequences do have something to do with recovery, and when the consequences get to a point that you can't stand them anymore, you either look at recovery, or you've ended up in an institution for the rest of your life, or you commit suicide, or some people just use to the point they die. So consequences do play a part here, and I needed to state that here. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Any further discussion on this third division of the committee amendments? There being no further lights, Senator Lindsay to close on this. Excuse me, Senator Crosby. Senator Crosby yields to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Crosby. What we have before us now is the approach that Senator Abboud wanted the committee to take. Senator Abboud has told me that he is