

have got to have the type of programming, I think, that Senator Pedersen is talking about, but I think we have to make sure we appropriate enough money to achieve it. And in no case do I want us to make a response...well, I won't call it a responsibility, but a condition that has to be met to get good time, but it cannot be met. To address Senator Witek's amendment directly, the reason I'm opposed to that is because it makes the operation of the penal system entirely political. And I know that the director of corrections is appointed by the Governor, and I know that person can be fired by the Governor and will say what the Governor, in most instances, want him or her to say. But when you put the Governor in a position to say which programs will be made available, I think we are doing away with our responsibility. We should establish the programs that are going to be at the institution, we should not leave it to the Governor. The Governor has no expertise in corrections, is not required to have any as a condition to holding that office. A director of hired presumably because he or she has knowledge and ability in operating a corrections system. That person is the one who should have the primary responsibility for the operation of the prisons. Should that person not do his or her job, then responsibility falls on the Governor to do something about either getting that person in line...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or replacing him or her with somebody who can do the job. But I wouldn't want the Governor to be involved in the day-to-day operation of the prisons in the determination of whether there will be a program, because he could say, yeah, this program is in today, then he can cut it out tomorrow and create havoc in the prison system. If the public becomes outraged and say they have too many privileges, the Governor, being very sensitive to public opinion, would cut programs. And I wouldn't want to see that happen so I've got to oppose Senator Witek's amendment even though, as I said in the beginning, I understand she's trying to achieve what she refers to as accountability or oversight.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pedersen, followed by Senators Witek and Chambers.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there is a fiscal note, I've got it here now, I got screwed up in my paperwork. They say sometimes we make law too fast around