

I wanted to talk a little bit about the fiscal note on this. And I understand too it's really an educated guess and it's very difficult. I would like to think that because there was some additional money put in for this reason that there could be some savings in another area. I don't know, Senator Pedersen, if you had any comments on that or not. I will say that we presently do have it in the status in the appropriations mainline bill, 392, as a safety net. And the language states that if 371 passes then the language would not be needed in the mainline bill. So this money is fit in. It's interesting how it's in. We actually replace some federal funds, had to replace some federal funds with General Funds here in this case so the money is in for that reason, not supposedly for the good time area. I am a little concerned that be that as it may, that if this passes, which on first blush is a good idea, I tend to agree with Senator Pedersen's philosophy on all of this, but it still runs a risk, and that's what I want to remind the body of, increasing costs down the road. It's...it's a...I don't know whether it's highly idealistic but it's got to be an idealistic way to approach it. And I caution the body that there will be a cost, a real cost to this.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I do not know what it is. The fiscal note is roughly a half million dollars. It's a difficult issue for me to reconcile in my mind because I can easily see this going up. We can say corrections must eat this, and that will certainly probably happen for a while. But come down the road if we have this kind of program for everyone and perhaps it should be, comes with that cost that we need to be prepared, and it's exactly the same thing that we're seeing all through the budget that we've had on this debate, good intentions end up costing more money. Then a year down the road we say why is this budget going up? So I just want to caution the body on that. Recognize that even though it appears to be good, I wish there was a way to better document the costs and say that it probably is going to come back and strike us in a year or two about...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...needing more money for this.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers.