

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler, you are recognized.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, I would like to support the motion to substitute. I think that, given the context of this...or the situation that we're in right now, it's probably the only thing that can be done to get certain necessary amendments on the bill and to have an opportunity to advance the bill. I wanted just to point out to you that there are now 40 amendments filed on the bill, 40 amendments. We all know that there is serious philosophic disagreement on portions of this bill, philosophic disagreement to the extent that Senator Chambers will most certainly filibuster this out to the end. With 40 amendments on file, with the possibility of bracket motions, with the possibility of amendments on amendments, you all have seen quite clearly demonstrated to you in the past the Senator's ability to drag this out eight hours just on a few amendments. That means...and I'm not criticizing him for doing so because I know he has deep philosophic objections to this bill, but that does mean that if we do not do this, there are probably several important amendments which we will never get to and, that being the case, it may be that the bill will not get advanced. I think it would be a serious mistake, both on the substance of the matter and with regard to the public perception, for this bill not to be advanced in some reasonable form. And so I think we should look carefully at what amendments are needed absolutely to correct technical deficiencies, to correct...to make philosophic compromises in a major sort of way on a couple of items and try to get those done so that, at the end of eight hours or ten hours or twelve hours, the bill we know is in some shape that it can be advanced and we can be...be acting responsibly to advance it and we can be advancing a bill that we can be...truly approve of. If you...if you do not allow for the substitution at some point and there will be an objection to every offer to substitute, we won't get down more than ten amendments, I would guess, today through the process of amendments to amendments and bracket motions and the other kinds of parliamentary motions that are available to those who object to the bill. And so I think it's either we do this or we give up all hope of having a reasonably structured bill at the end of eight to ten hours. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator