

SENATOR HALL: We're back to the debate on the bill on Final Reading. Here are the lights that I have on. Please check if you choose not to speak. Senator Withem, Senator Wesely, Senator Abboud, Senator Witek, Senator Lindsay and Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely, your light is first.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, the discussion on LB 507 reminded me of one of those lessons you learn after being here a period of time, sometimes shorter, sometimes longer but the point that when you pass something popular like getting tough on crime like this bill talks about doing. That's the moment at which you do some things that aren't so popular. That means funding the jails, the prisons, the probation officers, the other costs associated with carrying out the law. It's an easy thing to talk about putting people in jail that have committed crimes, that's popular, people like it and we can go back and get elected on that but it's not so easy to talk about funding those costs that associate with that action. That's why LB 507 was such good policy and it's why when we passed the welfare bill we did just a little while ago we included in that a number of things that some of you didn't like that included the actual funding part of the elements of welfare reform. It's a lesson we should all keep in mind as we work through tough issues. It's easy to vote for the popular sides of the political issues we face, but on the policy side, and the unpopular side of those issues we need to attach those and get those done at the same time because you pass the tough laws, the crack down, then you come back later to fund it and you find that there isn't the political will to do it because the popular side of it is already done and over with and now the unpopular funding of it, well that's awful hard to do and so though the bill doesn't have the A bill and doesn't have the funding, I still maintain that's unfortunate because we should have done that all at one time. We should fund and do what needs to be done to carry out the bill. That's the part that's hard, but that's the part that needs to be done when the easier part of it is done with the main bill being passed, so although I'm going to rise in support of 371, the point of 507 and what it tried to do was exactly right. Unfortunately we ran out of time and we didn't get done what was intended with that, but it's still fundamentally the right approach to issues like crime, like welfare, like other issues, do the tough, hard policy things when you do the easier political things. Thank you.