

commission's responses to these recommendations, it gives you the other point of view. They disagree with many of these recommendations. They say that, that a lot of these recommendations don't take into account the problems that affect the management of this agency as well as the factors which contributed to the employee turnover and disrespect, such as the staff being allowed to violate the chain of command and communicate directly with senators about allegations when not bringing such matters first to the attention of the commissioners and the directors. That was a political move on some staffer's part to come here to the Legislature and pull that commission here into this Legislature. And maybe it was being looked at by the Appropriations Committee for a number of years, but that was from the Appropriations Committee point of view, that wasn't from the political point of view. But now it's been drawn into a very political atmosphere and it's being used politically. It says an "enormant" amount of...an inordinate amount of time of the executive director and the commissioners is spent responding to...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...unsubstantiated allegations. Again, I say these are unsubstantiated and these people have to be answering for it constantly. And the fact that given the nature of the work performed by the investigators, that they are being paid a salary significant below other investigative agencies. In addition to all the above factors, the agency is constantly being criticized for the work without given any attention to the quality of the results of the agency that it is producing. And that's true. You never hear of the good things that that agency has done because it's been put into this political arena to try to make it seem like it's horrible, unmanageable, and we need to push through this piece of legislation. I would hope that you would vote for this amendment to do away with it completely rather than allow it to be pulled into the political arena completely and as a very potentially powerful tool for anyone who would want to use it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to at this time recognize a guest of Senator Brown under the balcony. It's actually her sister-in-law from San Francisco, we have Polly Brown Hultquist, who's originally from Broken Bow, Nebraska. Polly, if you'd like to stand and be recognized please. Senator Chambers.