

February 2, 1996 LB 645

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you read. Okay, thank you. Members of the Legislature, that's the way they treated people who were lepers. They put them in colonies, which means they isolated them, they banished them from human society. And to make sure that nobody would be infected they were required to shout "unclean", "unclean", which meant this highly religious society had reduced them to level, the level of diseased things.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They were not human beings. And I see this type of legislation approaching that type of attitude. As Senator Witek said, you're talking about people convicted of a crime. But there are a couple of other questions I'm going to have to ask, which in the less than a minute I have remaining I cannot ask. But I hope you would consider whether or not such people are treatable. That's the question that I'm going to ask of somebody who may have an answer.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Abboud, a couple of questions if I may. I know on one page of your amendment it describes a sexually violent predator as a person who suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder, right?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And that, obviously, is some sort of mental problem that may or may not be capable of healing, I suppose. What concerns me then is the language on the first page, line 15. Therein it gives the power to the court to determine if a person is a sexually violent predator, okay. And that's, that's saying that this person has a mental abnormality by definition under the bill, correct? When the court makes that determination they're saying that the person has a mental abnormality, by definition. Is that not correct?

SENATOR ABOUD: I'm reading that language. I understand what you're asking.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR ABOUD: In terms that no...