

fiscal impact. And we're supposed to be, with 1044, restructuring, not increasing the money that's being spent. So the first area of the bill that I'd like to address this morning is this area of the bill that...to change the thirty positions that 1044 asks for, and change that to fifteen positions, which I...Senator Wesely can clarify, I asked him, during the hearing on 1323, if he intended to double that to sixty. And he said, no, that 1323 was, and Senator Wesely can answer those questions on his light, but he said that that was for all the different agencies, and that it would have been the same positions that are asked for in 1044. So that's a decision that I'd like the Legislature to make knowingly on whether we think it's a good idea to double the exempt positions for these agencies as we're restructuring to allow for some flexibility, my amendment still does that, but to double those positions. I think we're really, really putting ourselves out there for a potential fiscal impact that we really might not be able to come up with. And maybe the Appropriations Committee can address some of their... I've talked with their...I've talked with Senator Wehrbein on a number of occasions, that we are going to have some restraints on our budget this year, I'm glad to hear that, and this is just one area. If we are truly restructuring, I don't think we need to give them fifteen more positions to give them an exemption from those compensation rules at a fiscal impact we don't know. So I think at this time we could go ahead and give the fifteen, and my amendment does that, and not allow the thirty. I would appreciate your passing this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in opposition to the amendment. This is an example again of trying to take information and create a different scenario than is reality. We currently have authorized for these positions I think something like twenty or so different slots that are authorized for the current five agencies. They utilize something like thirteen of them. So all we're doing is raising from twenty or so to thirty the number that are authorized. That doesn't mean there will be thirty exempt slots. So, first off, how many you allow for is not necessarily how many you utilize. So that's point number one. Point number two is that the question about the exemption from salaries came up at the hearing on 1323. And what you'll see, and I'll be happy to show you the figures, is that we do have a very consistent