

salary level for these positions, as any others that are covered by personnel. They did not find an increase in the salaries of these individuals that are exempt positions such that you have to worry about the fiscal impact. There isn't, I think, a problem with that. So there isn't going to be a fiscal impact. There isn't going to be total utilization of every slot, necessarily. I think the authorization is there, if necessary, but that doesn't mean it will be utilized. And the third thing I'd like to point out is the reason that 30 was figured is they were talking about something like 6,000 employees. So the current statute, if you look at the bill you'll see that currently if you have over 1,000 employees you're granted 5 slots, 5 exempt slots. So we took the 6,000 employees times 5 and that came up with the 30, that's where the figure came from. So all we're doing is authorizing, basically, the same level of exempt positions as they would otherwise already qualify for under the current statutes. So it isn't, in my view, a radical change. What would be a radical change, and in my view not particularly that radical, would be the other bill that I introduced, 1323. And, as those members of the Government Committee recall, I did testify on that bill. I think we have far too few exempt positions in state government. We are too restrictive in what we provide our agencies in order to accomplish the goals of an administration with exempt positions to bring in people to get the job done. We have too many individuals in what we would term the bureaucracy out there, entrenched in positions that we cannot get to respond to change and needed change in those agencies. And I'll just cite one example, the Lincoln Regional Center, which has been of great concern last year and prior years as well, hired a...had a campus CEO that was in charge and was in a nonexempt position. So there they were, in charge of the Lincoln Regional Center, and there we saw a deterioration of that center to a point where we had to consider seriously whether or not that had any future, whether or not we ought to close it down and change the whole system so that those services were brought into the community. What had happened was the staff morale had sunk to an extremely low level, we were not seeing any services provided for those that were mentally ill that were supposed to be served in the Regional Center campus. We brought in Darrel Ray to do a report that was done in the spring, then one in the fall, and both cases pointed directly to management and the poor job that was being done. We were at a crisis point. It finally, after the second Ray report, the Director of the Department of Public