

Institutions intervened and suspended the CEO, and now that action is in court and being challenged. But we have a new person who's in charge, and all of a sudden we've seen Lincoln Regional Center go from a very negative crisis situation to it's turned back to the positive, and things have calmed down there. That is an example of the problems with state government. You have a personnel system that protects bureaucrats to a point where you have to be so incompetent, so unable to perform your duties that you could...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...you can step in and relieve them of that position, that it really needs to negative consequences on these programs. We seemed to allow the Lincoln Regional Center to deteriorate to such a point, solely so a case could be built up strong enough to overcome the personnel rules, so you could intervene and remove this person. That's wrong, that's not how it should be operated. We want to protect employees, that are doing a good job, from unfair treatment. But when individuals are not doing a good job do we want such barriers that we have to let things get so bad before we can intervene? That's what we're talking about here. We've got 6,000 employees, surely we should allow at least 30 slots out of 6,000 so that we can be sure that the job gets done that needs to get done, to make changes in this system. So I don't see the problem with the cost. This is not a major change. It's an absolutely needed adjustment in our bureaucracy, not only in this agency but others. I'd ask your opposition to the Witek amendment. Thank you.

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

SPEAKER WITHEM: Madam President, members of the body, I want to rise in opposition to the Witek amendment and talk just a minute or two about this whole concept of exempt employees. And I think Senator Wesely gave the factual description that...okay, thank you, that this bill does not radically increase the size of the political appointees that any Governor can make. But I want to just want to talk about this whole concept of exempt employees, because I think this is one of those areas where we have, over the last 50 to 100 years, in reaction to an evil system that existed prior, that was where everybody that