

to. And then they end up being in a situation where they don't, nobody takes care of anything. Here you can't do that. The department is the responsible party. And, yes, there's internal fighting, but ultimately that higher entity has to resolve it and not punt to somebody else. There's no place else to turn to.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. I'm going to take it to that same concept, but in a little bit different direction. This year, for example, neither the Governor or the Attorney General, in any of the crime packages, funded anything for the expansion of community-based programs. And I'm not going to get into whether I...you know, obviously I disagreed with that. But whether that was a good decision on their part is immaterial. They did not do so. I chose to try to do something in 1141, the Appropriations Committee, I believe, has some things that they've added as well. If the Legislature still wants to make a policy decision that's different from that, what mechanisms will be there so that we can actually appropriate dollars or make policy to specific programs, even though they are merged?

SENATOR WESELY: No, and again you're making an excellent point. You have this conflict, you go to the director, you've got the policy (inaudible), you go to the Governor. But ultimately we're the pursestring holder, we're the ones that decide what money goes to what area, and we can designate the programs, we can pass statutes. I mean one of the things we did when the Governor wanted to get rid of the caretaker relative program, for instance, that was in statute, couldn't do it, I mean we have our options, through statute, through appropriations process to determine, ultimately, through the whole thing I just laid out ultimately it's the Legislature that decides what happens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. And I concur with that as well. I think these are good to try to get on the record, because we really haven't had any discussion really on some of these areas.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely, if I had a...let's take 1141 that's on Select File, which is the community-based program, there's \$3.3 some million that's in that bill for the expansion of community-based programs. If this bill, 1044, were