

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members. I've had a chance to talk to Senator Withem and others interested in the bill and I think Senator Chambers makes a good point, that we don't necessarily need this language in here. Obviously, the Governor will have the authority to pick the very best people we can; obviously, he will try to get a diverse group from across the state in terms of different viewpoints and backgrounds and all that should be expected. And, ultimately, you know, whatever we put in there, the Governor is going to make the decision, and he will have to be held accountable for their decisions. So I think, ultimately, that check and balance plus the fact that we will have to approve who is appointed will help us intervene if some bad appointments are made. So I...I stand in support of the Chambers amendment. I think it's fine.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Is there any further discussion of the Chambers amendment? Seeing none, Senator Chambers waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Chambers amendment to LB 1044. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chambers amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: The next amendment I have is from Senator Bernard-Stevens. It is found in the Journal on page 1103. (See AM3562.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens to open or his amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. This goes back to the sections in the bill that dealt with the OJS, which is the juvenile justice portion. Under the current statute that we have in the books, I can't remember what it is, 83-176, the permission or the authority to deal with minors other than those convicted as an adult is actually under Corrections. But since OJS is within Corrections, they were able to use that statute to fulfill their role and mission as designed by the Legislature. What they did in the bill is they duplicated that section and put it into this bill, 1044, because OJS will no longer be in Corrections, and they needed to have the authority to deal with