

plan that California uses, if you want to see more details of that plan. So, at this point, the committee had voted on this to recommend this as an amendment to the mainline bill to recognize this need. And I guess from there I'd entertain questions or more discussion, obviously.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek, to speak to the Wehrbein amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I don't know if I'm going to support this amendment or not. I want to hear the discussion. I do know that when I sent out a survey recently in my district to 11,000 households, the message that came back from the constituents, at least who answered, and that's not necessarily a representative sample, but the ones that came back, the majority said they didn't want to spend more money on prisons, which, of course, is an interesting dilemma for policymakers. And I'm wondering, and it's an interesting dilemma, of course, because we're requested to get tougher on crime and to pass more laws and to incarcerate more people, but yet maybe people don't want to spend any more money in this area. So I'm wondering if this is a good compromise instead of building more prisons that we construct the more temporary types of housing units. I don't know. But the real reason that I'm rising on this one is because I think that we do need to continue the discussion about the kinds of laws that we are passing. One of the things that I've been very interested in, because I have three institutions in my district, I have the Lincoln Correctional Center, I have the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center, and I have the Nebraska State Penitentiary. And, of course, every time there's a problem or a perceived problem my office usually hears about it. And several years ago the main issue that I was hearing about was the amount of staffing, particularly at the Lincoln Correctional Center, and that was an issue that we discussed long and hard on the floor. And what we discovered was that we were actually paying more in overtime than it would cost to hire more staff members. So we hired more staff members. And I thank the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature for that because I think when you get into that amount of overtime and that amount of expenditures it's foolish because you have people who are tired, who end up going home sick because they've put too much overtime in the past week or whatever. It's not an efficient system. I'd just like to share with you the fact that over the last few years,