

and overcrowded and having a hard time making ends meet now and keeping people in these facilities, I'm not going to ask people, I'm not going to be irresponsible enough to ask those people to take their time to put together some bogus report that tells us that we need a new facility and that we're overcrowded in our prison system. So that's the reality of the situation. And my point to make on the corresponding costs to the private sector is still a very valid point because we all know that the costs may decrease in that sector and it is...you cannot tell how they will decrease but to the people who may be victims of those people, while they're incarcerated at least they can feel a little safer that they're locked up in a prison. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, when we were discussing this in Appropriations Committee and I'd made some of those remarks previously on the floor, is my frustration in knowing how to fund the Department of Corrections is that we do not have all the information that we need and the total picture at one time. I've already asked staff, before this amendment come down, in Legislative Fiscal Office for an interim study to be able to pull it all together. What we get are little pieces at a time and yet we've never put it together to look at the total picture. A big piece that was missing was community corrections in all the things that we were looking at, which I think is a really good alternative. The types of information that we're asking for, yes, they do exist in the Department of Corrections. We're not going to go out and do another study. What we're going to do is to ask the Department of Correction (sic) who has that information to put it together in a manner in which we can look at it as an Appropriations Committee and look at it and, for me, it will mean developing a time sequence. We can't do everything at one time. I don't consider this an irresponsible action in any way, shape or form. I consider it very responsible to look at short-term and long-term planning for the kinds of money that were spending to have some justification for doing what it is we plan to do. I think just the opposite is true of what Senator Witek has said, is that we are trying to (inaudible)...to get a report that says we don't have to build a prison. In my mind we have to get a report that says, yes, we do have to build this prison and it needs to be done before some of the other projects do, or it needs to be done two years down the road. Whatever that means,