

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Again, I want to assure Senator Bernard-Stevens and any other senators who are willing to listen at this point, I guess we'll know if they're listening if they ask the same question later on. This bill will not come to you out of Select File unless we've got some substantial amendments which put into the bill the considerations expressed by Senator Bernard-Stevens. We are not going to pass an idea and not have to commit to the funding until down the road. Frankly, I don't think that that's honest and I won't support that. So I'm going to be drafting amendments which will require this body to assess whether we want to do this and how we will do it. But before we implement any plan of alternative incarceration, including boot camps, we're going to have to decide again to do it and how to fund it. And I will assure you that that will be in amendments on Select File. I just want to briefly state, and I've passed around an article, and I hope that the headline doesn't offend anybody, frankly women excel in many other places besides prison boot camps. But this was an article that I think identifies some of the...some of the ideas that we have regarding the boot camp. It's not, as Senator Chambers was talking, like...like the military exclusively. I would not support, will not support, and will assure the body that before this moves ahead, if we get it to Select File, that there will be included requirements and provisions for programming. This is designed primarily for younger offenders, first time offenders, but it can be broadened, includes programs for drug counseling and treatment. It simply is not going to work if we don't do this. And I also want to advise the body that frankly if you don't vote for this you can go happily home, but we have no alternatives. You've got probation, you've got maximum incarceration. Now if you don't want alternatives, vote against this today. You think you might have accomplished something but we will not have accomplished anything. Senator Ashford is working on community corrections but I think that's a consideration that we need to look at, and I talked to him about how we might include in this bill the options that might be available in community corrections in addition to boot camps on Select File. If you do not pass this bill ahead, you'd better come back and tell us what the alternatives are. The prison system right now is at about 150 or 170 percent of capacity. We know that we've got people in prison who probably ought not be there, who could do better in other places. One of the major cuts that the Department of Corrections offered the Appropriations Committee