

handle at this point and we also would be denying ourselves some areas of treatment and so on. If they're serious, they're violent, they're not going to get probation anyway. If it's more than their first offense, they're not going to get it and I just...I guess a word of advice, I'd stick to dealing with the areas of parole and I would let this area of probation go by the board unless we have a hard handle it could be guaranteed that it isn't going to cause us a lot of problems in the correctional system because I really think that it will. But the parole area for people that are violent who are already in the system, those people are fine as far as I'm concerned but I guess I would also stand at this point and oppose the probation restrictions because I just think the impact on our prison system and of treating people will be denied and that is really not our intent at this point. So I would urge you to...let's let this one go and focus on what your real intentions I think are. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I have some mixed feelings on this particular proposal. Senator Witek, do you happen to know off hand how many offenses we're talking about here, that is how many offenses involve...how many felonies there are that involve mandatory minimum sentences? I don't think there are very many, are there? You're not sure?

SENATOR WITEK: I do not know.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. I generally don't...I generally in the past have not been supportive of mandatory minimum sentences but I think this, that if you're going to have a mandatory minimum sentence, what you're saying to the public is that we're going to put these people in jail for this period of time, and then when you come along and allow those people to be put on probation, I think you create credibility problems with the public and that you ought to do one thing or the other, not have minimum, mandatory minimum sentences or do away with probation with regard to those particular items when they involve felonies which is what is being proposed to you today. And so, although I don't like what we're doing to the structure of the law altogether, I think I'm going to vote in favor of this because you've got to believe one thing or the other.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING