

this bill does, purely voluntary. I'd urge you not to give veto power to one county over all 92 others.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam Chair, members, I just wanted to comment about the diversion program and how it works in Sarpy County. It's a program that, as I recall, a number of years ago was...there was some legislation to do away with the diversion program in Sarpy as well as Dodge County, the two counties that have the diversion programs. And I served on the Judiciary Committee at the time. I believe Senator Hoagland was the Chairman at the time and there was a strong, strong feeling among Sarpy County officials from the sheriff down to the commissioners that we should keep this particular program, that it's a program that does work. And from talking to people that have been through the program, it's a good program in the sense that it forces individuals to deal with the real problem of drunk driving and that is a lot of these people do have alcohol or substance abuse problems. And part of the program that I've always liked is the fact that there is random testing and that these people can get kicked off the program at any time in which they fail to test properly on this random testing for alcohol. They are called, they say you have to show up the next day and they have to be there. And what it does is it tends to encourage people that have these alcohol problems to get help. It also requires that they go through other alcohol, substance abuse programs. It's somewhat of an expensive program in that they have to go through different types of training as well as attending on a regular basis AA meetings. So I have always felt that it was a program that for the right person actually accomplished quite a bit and it further discouraged individuals from driving drunk. It encouraged them to deal with their problem and it, I felt, was a good program for the right person. Now, not everybody can handle it. If they have a true substance abuse problem, they're not going to be able to all of a sudden say, well, I'm on this diversion program and I'm going to stop drinking alcohol or using drugs. They can't handle it and they fail and when they do the random test, they fail and then they're charged with drunk driving, first offense. But it's a good step for people that have problems and I'm kind of surprised that we don't have some of the attorneys fighting this bill because it actually reduces the amount of business for trial attorneys and defense attorneys around the state because once they go through that program there is no need for an