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FLOOR DEBATE

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some recommendations to the Legislature. So don't feel that this is the only option out there, particularly for a first offense. We should be recommending what should be available in every county to provide that type of assessment, to provide things outside the juvenile justice system. It's not always a good thing to have a child in court. It's not always a good thing to have severe consequences that aren't appropriate to the level of offense. It's better to address these issues early and do them with a community response and I just wanted you to be aware that that's part of the work that you put in place last year and that you'll be receiving information on. Thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** (Visitors introduced.) Senator Bruning.

**SENATOR BRUNING:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wanted to talk a little bit about my own experience and why it is I oppose this motion to reconsider and support LB 114, and how the law can protect kids or young adults with regards to alcohol. In 1987, when I graduated from high school, the DWI laws were pretty weak at that time and my recollection is that, by and large, a lot of the crowd I ran around with, there was a fairly regular...people weren't as worried about driving after drinking. And let me tell you, if you're wondering whether high school kids were doing...were drinking, absolutely they were. At Lincoln Southeast anyway it happened with regularity almost every weekend. And how does it happen? How do people get alcohol? Well, you...somebody has got a brother that's over 21, maybe somebody looks 21, they've...18-year-old kid with a moustache, whatever, there was an ability to get the alcohol if you wanted the alcohol. And, at the time, there were virtually no penalties as far as drinking and driving or even being caught. I mean the football coaches certainly knew about it. They never...they never worried about it. You know, these were...we were not kids that were in trouble as far as our grades. We were not kids that were in trouble as far as the law. We were kids that were bored on Friday night, trying to figure out what to do, bored on Saturday night, trying to figure out what to do, and I look back on that and I think...I put myself at risk a number of times. I've put my family at risk because of what they'd a had to deal with if I'd a hurt myself, other people's families. There was a lot of risk that was going