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LB 451, 640

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Legislature, please come to order.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...it this session if I thought we weren't going to follow through on our promise. This has been under discussion for years. This particular issue, the meetings started a year ago last fall with state probation working out the aspects of the bill because this is a change for them. This is a huge new responsibility. And they're willing to, after they discussed it, take on this responsibility and this change for the good of the kids and for the good of the counties. Those of you...we hear about property tax issues all session, this is a property tax issue. That's who has to pay for this, the inappropriate detentions,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...are the counties through their property tax. But we're doing inappropriate things, and one of the things that research shows us is that as kids penetrate the juvenile justice system, resolving their issues gets more difficult. And one of the things we should be doing is keeping from...them from getting into these types of situations inappropriately. And I'm very pleased the Governor brought LB 640 this year, which will provide money to communities to develop some alternatives for kids who are...need prevention services and are getting into trouble where families can seek out support. It isn't appropriate for them to go straight to a detention facility, and they shouldn't be in these facilities, it's a violation of our juvenile code. This is not appropriate, what we have found, the kids who are there. And there are issues that we found that were very significant, dealing with issues for minority children in Nebraska ending up in detention facilities. And I have that data, but I...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...would be happy to provide it if you want it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator