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LB 53

rights than just this one, and that that would be appropriately be done so by amending the state constitution. It would have to be done that way. And I pointed that out earlier. I wanted to add emphasis to that. But I want to emphasize the fact...and I think this body is more cautious these days in labeling certain offenses, too many offenses, as a felony. I attempted with some legislation this year to relax the penalty relating to some health care provisions. (Laugh) And it was killed in committee. And that's fine. That's part of this process. And I still think it's political. All of our process here is political. That doesn't mean that I support some traditional Democratic causes, even though I'm not a Democrat. Nonetheless, that's not why I'm speaking today. We have too many offenses that are considered a felony. And maybe Senator Johnson agrees with that. He didn't happen to agree with that on this medical issue. But that felony was placed on the books because that was political. We're placing felonies on the books because it's political. And I don't think there's any denying that, and the public record will reflect that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I support this bill, in...for several reasons. One of the most important reasons is the disparity between how felonies are treated in district courts of this state. In Omaha, Douglas County, Lincoln, Lancaster County, you can be charged with a felony and then receive the services of a diversion program where that charge is dismissed after your successful completion of the diversion program. In Madison County, if you're charged with a felony, there is no diversion program. And I think that's an important distinction to make. We want to get these folks back into society and plugged in. I've sat in too many district courts where we hold the hand of a 19-year-old who made a very bad decision, broke into a building, and was charged with a felony. When that person is 50, do you want them to be disengaged from state government? Do you want them to be disinterested in the school board? Do you want them not to care or think about the property taxes that they pay? I say no. I want to give that young man or young woman a chance to have a stake in their community. And I realize there's a Pardon Board