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done. So thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senators now wishing to speak to AM1711...did you wish to have the remainder of your time back? Senator Brashear did not wish to. Senator Don Pederson...Dwite Pedersen, rather.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I stand briefly just to say this is really a good thing. It is the most compassionate thing I think we can do. No matter what these people have done, they are no longer a danger and I think we need to take care of them and their families. And in the meantime, it would also be helpful to the state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Further discussion? Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. If I could, I'd like to ask Senator McDonald a question or two.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator McDonald?

SENATOR McDONALD: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator McDonald, I too think this is a very humane thing to do, but I wonder--did I hear you say that anybody who was in for life or who was on death row would not be eligible for this?

SENATOR McDONALD: Yes, you're absolutely right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And why? I mean...I'm not saying that they should be. I'm wondering if they should be, because if they are no longer a danger to society...

SENATOR McDONALD: And I would guess the reason is that they, if they are in there for life, are certainly not eligible for parole.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No.