

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, members of the body, I think I should also go on record as noting that Senator Chambers I think has some valid points, that a great number of the prostitutes, of the women who are engaged in prostitution are themselves victims. However, state law as it currently stands, which is a Class V misdemeanor, a \$100 fine and a citation, is not going to rehabilitate them. It is not going to give them the opportunity for the rehabilitation. I think that opportunity is available either through probation or as we heard in the Judiciary Committee testimony, it is offered through some prison programs. Rehabilitation in the area of prostitution is...the rehabilitation itself is a fairly new concept. There were a couple of people who appeared at the Judiciary Committee who did testify that they are getting into that area, that area of rehabilitation, but I just don't think if we leave, and what we have to remember is we're going to leave this at a Class V misdemeanor without that. We're going to leave this with a mandatory issuance of a citation. We will not be allowed to arrest, we will not be allowed to do anything more than increase the cost of doing business, period. We will not provide the assistance that I think every member of the Legislature agrees that it should probably be provided, but it will not be provided under the current, under the status quo. It's a possibility it could be provided under LB 116. Senator Chambers also brings up a point of the pimps, of the panders, and I think it's a good idea that the way the statutes read now that it's a felony to engage in pandering. Yes, that is the worse of the evils I guess. Those who are involved in that should be penalized as for a felony offense, but that's not what we're dealing with here. That law is on the books, that law can be, if they can come up with the evidence to provide a conviction, they can and do so. I agree those should be punished but we're not dealing with the pimps in this legislation. It is already being provided for. We're dealing with the prostitutes themselves. I, again, I do support this legislation, I do support it strongly. Those who are familiar with my district, with the 9th District, would know that and, again, to an extent Senator Chambers is correct in that that is where the visible prostitution activity is. Again, I don't think that this legislation limits it to the visible activity. I think that this legislation, if the enforcement procedures are utilized, can be used for some of the escort services or the other forms of prostitution that Senator Chambers was referring to. This does not limit it to street walkers, it refers to the crime of prostitution. I think Senator Chambers has some valid points,