

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give my time to Senator Ernie.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Korshoj. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the problems that I have to contend with constantly you all don't have to be bothered with, so you can have a demonstrated example of racism and we'll say, well, let's find some way to deal with it, but as much as I've talked about that in the 19 years that I've been here, the Legislature has not been willing to do anything to really deal with those problems. I've brought it up to the Chief Justice when he was before the Judiciary Committee asking for the creation of the appellate system, maybe adding an additional judge and all those issues, and he didn't want to deal with it. I told him the disparate sentencing was established by a report that had been commissioned by the judges in this state, and the findings are here if any of you want to see it, I'll show it to you. I read where the court system knows that Black persons are punished more severely throughout the state than non-Black offenders. They get longer sentences. It's the way, as I pointed out in this set of handouts, we wind up with records. A White woman doing the same thing, Senator Scofield, doesn't get a record, Senator Langford, and if you all don't know that White women use drugs in Omaha then you don't know anything, but they don't get arrested for it. There is no cop that stands on the street corners in west Omaha selling drugs to the women and then arresting them. But that happens in my community and that's how they do what they call fighting drugs. They have small children, so they're taken from their children and it doesn't mean a thing to a lot of people on this floor but it means a lot to me, and I'm going to tell you all something else. I had said years ago on this floor, and I included one of the articles, that these children are not going to remain children forever, and other things that I've mentioned is that they see how their adults are treated and mistreated and they do develop a very negative attitude toward the society. And then, when the chickens come home to roost and these people begin to react as any desperate people who have been pushed into a corner and allowed no way out will react, then people say, see there, see what I told you about them. But they don't look at the factors that created that person. But I live with it all the time.