

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, please. Thank you. Senator Smith. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak just a minute or two and I will give the rest of my time to Senator Scofield, if she so desires, which is what Senator Smith I think wanted to do with her time. Senator Scofield mentioned a project going on in North Platte, and it kind of spurred me to say just a couple of things in explanation to some members of the body who may not be...particularly, I guess, to Senator Labeledz, in particular. That was one of the areas of the 42nd District, specifically, North Platte, that I was very, very pleased, in a way, proud of the way a community got together to help juveniles and our young people in that particular area. And the reason I say that is not because it may be an election year coming up or I am trying to make the people back home feel good, but what, in essence, happened is you had people from the county attorney's office, people from the county sheriff's office, from the city police, from the municipal organizations, from probation, from the courts, people who traditionally hassle and kind of work against each other sometime because they are protective of their own turf, finally got together and worked actually together to coordinate and combine things into one or two particular programs that would best serve the community. They had to overcome some mistrust. They had to overcome some letting turf go and adding some more responsibilities, and they did that. And it is a tremendous example of a community that got together to solve the problem in the best way that would fit that particular community and the region. And I think that is one of the things about 662 that really appeals to me is that it allows that local control, and I know Senator Labeledz is concerned about particular clinics and what have you, but the community must get together, as happened in North Platte, and the community will decide what is in its best interest, and there will need to be some type of unanimity within that community in order to proceed. These holdover, this particular holdover facility and other programs like that are, as Senator Scofield mentioned, budding possibilities. They can continue for only a short period of time, and they need more nurturing, they need a little fertilizer, they need a little water, and they need a little help and, with that help, we can have some tremendous local support groups for children at risk and for some of our youth that we profess on the floor to have a