

granted, that is where we are at now. That is what is before us but the issue that we should be addressing is the issue of education, prevention, and treatment, and we always look at the easy side, the side that deals with the penalties and the fines and the crimes and the provisions with regard to records and how hard we want to play ball with regard to these individuals that are in the area of drugs, selling it, both to kids and those who are using it. But we don't very often want to deal, we want to play soft ball with the issue which is the tough side of putting money up for treatment, putting money up for prevention, and putting money up for education, and that is not as easy to extract out of the body in the form of legislation. We have done some things in the last few years that I applaud both the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature for, but we are far from anywhere near correcting the situation that does get at the root of the problem. By the time you get to using the stuff that is in 976 or Senator Johnson's amendment, or even in Senator Landis's amendment to that amendment, it is too late. They have already used the drugs. They have already abused their bodies. They have already committed a crime. You are playing catch-up, and that is the problem with this type of legislation, you are playing catch-up. What we have to do is have LB 976 be the kind of legislation that deals with the education aspect, deals with the prevention aspect, and deals with the treatment aspect.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time or, excuse me, one minute.

SENATOR HALL: Until we do that...oh, I am sorry, I thought you were going to bang your gavel. I was waiting to hear that. I thought you had broken it again. Until we do that, ladies and gentlemen, we are never going to correct the situation. We are going to come in here, and we are going to do nice little things like increase the penalty that looks good, sounds good, feels good, but does absolutely nothing, and hopefully next year when we look at the budget, we will address that issue with regard to these types of prevention education measures and with the same kind fervor that we are doing in terms of the penalty side of the equation. With that, I would urge you to support Senator Landis's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch on the Landis amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to point out a