

experience in that area, and we send them to alcohol education classes, different than a treatment program. Treatment is really geared towards a life-long coping with an alcohol problem. You've always heard the thing you never cure an alcoholic, you just...it's a day-by-day fight, and you do those sorts of things. Treatment may be a little bit of an overkill, Senator Bernard-Stevens. You might want to do an alcohol education class. My trouble with alcohol education is that's not much of a penalty. You ought to know those things and be educated about that anyway. And if we're going to mandate a treatment program, there just aren't that many treatment programs out there. We ought to save treatment programs for the people who have an alcohol problem, who need the work, who need the help. And our resources are very limited. You talk about the funding. This is something that if the counties are going to have to absorb this for every person that gets caught up in this, that's going to be extremely expensive. And one of the things that we're going to do with the administrative license revocation procedures is that, hopefully, we'd qualify for some federal funds to, at the state level, make this program work and pay for this program. This would be something done at the local level. So I'm...the treatment program is...is...is a big step, and maybe overkill for some of those kids. If we change it to an education program then I don't think the penalty is enough, because that education can be no more than handing them a book, saying, read about alcohol and, quite frankly, it's one of those, I've heard...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...Senator Bernard-Stevens so many times talk about it's image, image, image. And that's probably what an alcohol education program would be, it would be, here, read this book. And the kids today are smart enough they'll look at that and go, yeah, yeah, yeah, and it won't have any effect. Treatment is an entirely different thing. And my sense of this is that we ought to save treatment programs for the people who have severe alcohol problems because of our limited resources. And the treatment, I think, may be a little bit of an overkill. There is no punishment that is going to always make everybody obey the law in the future. It's a matter of punishment, and it's a matter of deterrence, and that's the reason I'm more comfortable with staying with the class III misdemeanor and, at this point, would oppose that amendment. Thank you.