

cuts by using the juvenile justice funding. The Appropriations Committee came...went to them and said, we don't think you can do that, because this is technically state aid, we're giving monies for an aid program to be distributed to communities, we don't think you should be able to use those funds to cut monies that you'd have to cut from normally from your original program when we went to 3 percent across the board. The Supreme Court came back, said we humbly...or we respectfully disagree, we think that we can. One of the ways to make sure that the monies that the...that the Appropriations Committee and later the Legislature voted to send to the community juvenile services program is to keep the money intact. This would transfer the monies to the Crime Commission so that when budget cuts take place within the Supreme Court, they will not be able to tap those funds to eat those cuts, they'll have to act with the rest of the agencies and take the cuts where need be. If we don't then like the cuts where they've taken them, we'll have to decide whether or not we want to put more money in at a later time. This transfers that...it keeps the community juvenile services program intact, it keeps it into the Crime Commission where they technically must have an individual to coordinate these areas anyway, and it seems only logical to put the money and the coordination into the department so they can receive the federal monies that they are now currently receiving, so that they can continue to receive federal matching money so we can have the programs to do what the communities have already asked through their process to be able to do. I might point out that we need to look very carefully at the funding at later times, because the communities now are putting into these programs and they're going to be reliant on these programs to continue the juvenile service funding. And it is nice to see that the state is working hand-in-hand with the local communities so that they can decide what is in their best interest for their children, and devise their coordinated policy. And it is nice because for one of the few times, at the local level, there is strong desire to coordinate between different areas that sometimes traditionally fight on turf wars. And its nice to see this area, these barriers being broken. And I would urge passage of this amendment to LB 447.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have further closing, Senator Bernard-Stevens?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Only, Madam President, that this