

we...I am getting to the point where it's like why should we even bother writing these sentences on the books, where nobody...is there anybody out there serving a full sentence in the State of Nebraska, I don't think so, at any level, and, you know, for what purposes...I know that people are saying, well, you have to have good time in prison, well, these are people who've broken the law. It is not like a law is going to stop them, and I think I used this same argument two years ago when this body adopted this original provision for the two, the fourteen days, or seven days good time for every fourteen days served. And I said, well, if these individuals have broken the law and are in jail, and we haven't been able to entice them into keeping their behavior at an acceptable level because we haven't...they've broken a law, then why is it that once they get into prison, we are going to say that suddenly their behavior is going to improve if we let them out quicker. I think the preference to me would be that they would be more inclined to stay out of prison in the first place and, obviously, the law hasn't stopped them from doing that, so how could a promise of more good time keep their behavior at an acceptable level within the prison. This is, to me, just another weakening of the law, and I sure hope people see it this way and vote against it, because two years ago when they first adopted the county good time or the seven days good time for every fourteen days served, I voted against it and I would have voted against the good time at the state level had I had the opportunity. With plea bargaining and everything else, people aren't serving anywhere near their sentences, and the people out there in the public are furious about that. I am furious about that. We are letting people out on the streets in very short periods of time for crimes that, you know, two years ago, three years ago, before I ran for the Legislature, I thought they'd be locked up for years, and they are out in a year or less on some of these charges. So I hope you will consider carefully lowering this good time again. I think it is adequate how we have it now, that they changed...when they changed the law two years ago was an adequate change in the law, and I don't really think that we need another one. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator Lindsay, would you respond to a question for me, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.