

some federal funds. There was no indication though that those funds would be available this year or there's a question about next year, my understanding. So I would like to hear some of the comments on this Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, again I rise in opposition to this amendment and there are a lot things that we can cut and should cut and I'll be trying to cut that actually will have a major impact as far as the trying to free up dollars to do some of the things that we'd like to do. This, however, is ill-advised simply because again the juvenile justice bill that we passed two years ago, the entire foundation of that bill is the community-based programs. If we...and the commitment of the body not only then, but certainly the Governor and he's certainly been a strong leader in this particular area has been that yes, we will have the dollars for the community-based programs and we'll use that also to leverage federal dollars and certainly they are hoping to obtain federal dollars. The Appropriations Committee did a...I appreciate what the Appropriations Committee did because it was going to be a million dollars and then they were going to have federal dollars coming in and what we did is front load it on the front end so that for some reason if federal dollars aren't there, the community-based programming would be still there. And I'd like to just mention what...how important the community-based programming is. If you take this money away we might as well do away with 988, the juvenile justice bill, because it truly guts the whole intent of what the juvenile justice package does and in essence the community-based program was the foundation point that says, look, we're going to have the evaluation of the individual, the juvenile that goes into the juvenile justice system in the front end and then we're not going to argue anymore as to whose kid it is. We're not going to argue, gee, is it Social Services kid and they'll say well no, it's not ours, we don't have the money to do it, it is DPI's kid and they'll say, well, no, no, no, it's not ours, it's really Corrections and Corrections will say well we don't have any dollars to do any of the treatment and what happens was the children got nothing. They were simply left and they would then go to Kearney or Geneva. None of their problems would be addressed. We are putting so many people in Kearney and Geneva that the average stay instead of being 9-10 months is down to