

about 2.5 to 3 months so we're not even doing the program correctly. And what the community-based programming will do is it will set up in all the communities, in all the regions, at least, and as many communities in those regions a process that when the evaluation is done that the services, whether it's drug addiction, whether it's sexual assaults, whether it's abuse, whether it's counseling not only for the child but for the parents, all of that the community-based dollars that's what follows the individual, the juvenile, so that they cannot only pay for whatever crime they committed, but at the same point get the treatment that they need. And in many cases in our state the private sector cannot service these children because it was a part...they were not a part of the social services. What is going to happen now with these dollars is that they will be able to be served, they will be able to be helped, these are the dollars that make it happen. If you take that away, you, in essence, have gutted the juvenile justice proposal and so I would urge not the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I would recognize guests of Senator Wehrbein. Under the south balcony we have Paula Darling from Nebraska City and Art Palmer from Syracuse. Would you please stand and be recognized. Senator Wehrbein, to speak to entertain his guests.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to oppose this and I consider this a very important part. It is lots of money, it is a total of \$2 million. It is true as Senator Bernard-Stevens said, we front loaded this anticipating another couple million in federal funds for this issue. But regardless of whether there was a match there, we have a very serious issue as I said earlier on juvenile crime in Nebraska. This is to do some of the things in the community that would get at the core of the problem. We have a listing of details if you're interested. It's about a quarter inch thick, a manual like that describes the programs that are going to be a part of this. It is very detailed. It is new. It is getting off the ground. We felt it very critical to appropriate the money in this area. Hopefully it will do some good. But if we do not do some things like this, the expenses down the road are enormous and I would remind you this is to get at the increasing juvenile crime program, hopefully to avoid some areas, some increasing problems down the road. And I would remind you, a new prison, minimum security prison, \$50 million, 10 to \$15 million a year to operate it, \$2 million in this area to try to get at some of