

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The reason I'm...thank you, Senator Will. the reason I'm glad that I get this opportunity, and I'm taking the time, somebody may look at the transcript of our discussion. Drug problems are going to be with us. There are people outside the Chamber, and Senator Pedersen can confirm this, who are far more aware of the problem of drugs and the difficulties they call, and concern, cause, and are concerned far more than the members of the Legislature. If we would try by what we do to bring some rationality to this whole area, we could then start our discussions with a field that is more or less even in every respect. We don't have sentencing that is out of whack. Then we could work with these organizations, if we were of a mind to try to solve the problem and get some counseling, some drug education, and all the other things that people talk about, but serious consideration has to be given to what the former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders suggested, and what she suggested was that a serious study be undertaken. She didn't say that drugs should be decriminalized or legalized. She said a study should be undertaken, and studies are for the purpose of gathering facts and data on which rational decisions and policies can be based. Whether people are shocked or not, remember some of the most conservative people in this society have recognized the futility and uselessness of the so-called war on drugs. I am not talking about, in my amendment, decriminalizing drugs, but I'm saying you need to think about it, and I mean all of the drugs. You know how the Muslims, they are called the Black Muslims, the Nation of Islam, gets people off drugs, Senator Pedersen? They don't give them methadone. They don't give them anything, nothing. They put them in a room with people who were addicted, and with what other people call the cold turkey method, that's how they get them off. They tell them you are going to hurt, you are going to cry, you are going to think we're the worst person in the world, but you are not coming out of this room until you're clean. So you decide if you want to do this, and once they say I want to do it, the door closes, that's it. And they stay there, and when they hurt, they are with people who can tell them that they know what they are going through because they were there, but you've got to pass through this to come out on the other side and be clean. And it is not one of those things where you give them some methadone, or you give them lesser and lesser amounts of the drug to try to wean them away from it. It has to take place in the mind and in the spirit and that's why you cannot just put them in one of these treatment centers, clean them up because you don't let them get