

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Day, your light is next.

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise in support of this portion of the amendment. I think two interims ago I was part of a task force that studied probation and we went and checked out the correctional facilities. Probably one of the most educational trips I made was when we went to the state penitentiary, and Senator Chambers office helped arrange to have four convicted murders talk to us. They were very intelligent men, they'd spent a great deal of time there and they were facing quite a bit more time in the state penitentiary. And the conversation went around to the day that the prisoners are brought in and how it was like a high school reunion, everybody went down to see who was coming back in and to greet their old friends. And they continued to tell us that if we didn't have the programs and we didn't do the training, that's exactly what was going to continue to happen. And they came up with an idea that's very similar to what Senator Pedersen has proposed in this amendment, and that was they told us that they should get a benefit for taking advantage of some of these programs. They proceeded to say a lot of the programs weren't there, the prison officials told us well they're there, they just don't take advantage of them. And one of the prisoners said something that I definitely remember, and I think is very true, he said, you know the people that are in this institution aren't the most self-motivated people in the world or they probably wouldn't be here. And he said, we need a carrot to help motivate us. And he said...and they were talking more about the younger people that came in, those that didn't have their GED's. He said, you know if we can give them something to help get them to get their GED's, to take some college courses, to do some of these things. So I think this is a step in the right direction. I really think it would work and I think it's something that we should look at. And I appreciate Senator Pedersen bringing this part of the amendment to us on this bill and I strongly support it. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Witek, your light is next.

SENATOR WITEK: Really this part of the amendment deals with the part of the main portion that's already in there, this kind of just puts in a little more language about that area. So it's