

on juvenile justice, and we just set ourselves backwards at least a year or more. And I'm sorry the amendment got agreed to. I didn't think it would be agreed to. I called Senator Chambers when I was at the desk and said, I'm a little concerned, I think it might be agreed to, and it was by 27 votes. I'm going to file the reconsideration. I would humbly ask the body to please reconsider. Let us go forward. I suspect it will be Douglas County...the county that has the metropolitan area in it. Please don't get into a development contest between Sarpy County, Douglas County and Lincoln, don't do that to us. Let's...we have the area, we're going to have the site. Let's move forward, please, and then let the economic bidding start when we build the other 75 beds, when that is needed, if that is needed, but not now.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Abboud, your light is next. Senator Abboud is not present on the floor. Senator Bernard-Stevens...Senator Abboud, recognized.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, members, Senator Chambers and I don't normally agree on many things when it comes to corrections and how prisoners should be treated, but we do agree, I think, on this issue. And it's my belief that in dealing with the youths in the juvenile facilities, I do represent youths that do go through the juvenile court system. And it's been my experience that one of the most important factors on whether a child turns their life around, after they've had some problems with the law, is whether or not they have the support with their family. Now their family may...they may come from a two-parent family, a one-parent family, a grandmother, an aunt, it varies on the individual that has been involved with the system. But it's important that they have a relationship with that community. And when the proposal came up on LB 988 last year to have the facility, I felt very strongly that this was a good idea for the youth, because we have such a large number of youth from the Omaha area. And you also have to understand that the individuals, the families that are involved with the youth that's in that facility may not have a lot of money and they may have to use the public transit system, the bus system to have that contact, or take a taxi, or have a friend drop them off. And that type of contact on a daily basis or a weekly basis, or maybe three or four times a week is very, very important to the youth that are in this facility. This is a very serious issue because we're talking about a very crucial time in some of these