

will be used more as a threat that, that there is something out there besides what has historically been the threat, and that being the commitment to Kearney. That threat of going to Kearney doesn't work any more because of the turn around time, primarily, at Kearney, and it's simply not a sanction that the kids fear. Senator Chambers is correct when he says that we shouldn't just lock kids up and throw them away, and say that there's no way to rehabilitate them, that there's no way that they can ever be useful citizens of society. And I think LB 988 recognizes that. LB 988, if you recall, we had a very lively debate, I think, over some of the programming that would be included in the facility that we're talking about. That programming continues to be a central part of the facility that we're talking about. Kids won't just be locked up and forgotten about. They will continue to receive the benefit of the structured programming that Senator Pedersen was very integral part of getting inserted into LB 988. I concur with Senator Wehrbein, that delay isn't free. Delay is expensive. And I think the figure that he indicated in his handout was a quarter-million dollars every half year. We've already seen that. I think the cost will go up the longer we delay. And, in fact, we heard that when there was legislation in the Judiciary Committee about moving the location out of Douglas County because of the additional five hundred and some thousand dollars that would have to be appropriated. But we found that simply by delaying it just for the purpose of finding another location to save that five hundred and sixty some thousand dollars would actually cost us more than the five hundred and sixty some thousand dollars. Given that, I think the...the direction that our juvenile justice system is taking right now is the proper direction. And I think the Pedersen amendment will take out one sanction that I think is important to have, an important tool for juvenile judges who are dealing with some kids who aren't doing the same things that they were doing 30 or 40 years ago and, consequently, I think that the sanctions that we offer cannot be the same sanctions that we offered 30 or 40 years ago. I would urge that we reject the Pedersen amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President, and I rise to speak on Senator Pedersen's amendment with some mixed feelings. And I guess that I understand where he's coming from. I share the concerns about whether or not we are spending \$9 million-plus in