

committed more violent crimes, not using the youth facility in Kearney. To have this unit would be fine if we had the other units that we think would also be good. What we're looking at with this amendment is if we don't build this, is to save that money, it would sit in General File (sic) is my understanding...I mean in...in the General Fund and we could use it again next year to come back and use on more of a facility like boot camp, state prep school, adolescent orphanage, call it what you wish, but a place where we're going to start earlier in housing these people and spending some time with them and keeping them until they graduate from high school or get a GED and have some work ethics. The people are already in prison that we're going to put in this place. If there's a problem that we think we have to separate them, we can separate them by housing unit and both scheduling. But we need to start taking a look at real prevention with some real intervention that we know is going to work in the long run. I'm only proposing this to the fact that hopefully that we would be able to have some money next year sitting there and waiting to come back and propose an institution that most of us have been talking about for some time. We had many more people, young people today who do not have a home to bring them up in than we had true orphans back in the 1920s and '30s. This would only be a start, but it would be a start that would make a true difference in the future instead of just another prison institution, that by the way, people, whether you know it, some of the Appropriations Committee does but others don't; it's already proposed to be doubled in size in the very near future, plans have already been drawn for it. It would be just another prison institution. It would have some programming, but that programming got so priced out that the people will not pay for it. And I'm saying, let's back off from it, save the money and do something in an area that we know will work. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to oppose the amendment. I think we have made a good case the last year and somewhat again this year about the need for this secure confinement facility in Omaha. I will remind you, we do not currently have a juvenile facility to serve the most violent juvenile offenders as they should be. They are presently in adult...kept in an adult confinement system. We need a separate institution for that purpose. This will serve the 5 to