

10 percent most violent chronic youthful offenders under the age of 18 that have been convicted by juvenile or adult courts. These are youth convicted of homicide, assault, use of weapons, sex offenses, and robberies; in other words, the worst of the offenses. Certainly we would have to agree that we need a site such as this for juveniles and a separate facility such as this is proposed. The reason I'm talking about the need for the whole thing is because if we take this \$630,000 away from this site, it effectively is going to kill this facility. They have...it's already been delayed six months to a year because of disagreement on where the site should be, the inability to find a site in the Omaha area, and to find one that will be compatible with the neighborhoods. This site has finally been found and it did cost an additional \$630,000 to have the site preparation, but at least is an acceptable to this, at this site, in this place, in this community. So to take this money off the table effectively kills the whole...the whole thing in Omaha. Now, if you want to divert that money to something else, that is another issue, but at this point I do not think that that is what we should do. I think we need...I can't argue with what a lot of what Senator Pedersen said in terms of trying to do something with these juvenile offenders. But on the other hand it seems to me there is a certain amount of those offenders that are going to have to be confined in a secure facility. And we already have in this bill that they will be...will have specific programs to meet to the individual offender. We have core programming aimed at redirecting criminal behavior toward responsible behavior. There'll be educational and prevocational programs which will emphasize employability and self-improvement. So it isn't that this will not try to be provided in this facility. On the other hand I think we have to recognize, and I'm not an expert in criminal behavior, but it seems to me that we have a certain element in our society that have to be confined in very secure facilities. This is what this is for. It takes them out of the adult situation that they are presently in here in Lincoln. And so I think we have to think long and hard as to whether we should move away from that completely. And I would be one to say that we ought to do all we can for those, but certainly this is for the hard-core. And I guess your guess or understanding or knowledge is as good as mine as to whether we can actually successfully rehabilitate 100 percent under conventional or maybe not so conventional methods. So I would urge you to think very carefully about this amendment because, as I said, by taking this money out, it