

think as we consider what to do here, the state, in looking at this facility, shouldn't be thinking in terms of \$4.9 million, they should be thinking in terms of closer to \$1.5 million to spend for the facility. And the reason is that there really aren't that many beds in this facility. The figures I have are between 50 and 90 beds are in that facility. We need to track that down, but the 190 figure that's being talked about would be difficult to attain in that facility without having quite a number of youth in a rather small space, and I'm not sure that's really what we have in mind here, so I'm not sure. The press played it out as...the press reports were 190 beds. I'm not sure quite how we get to that, but...and the dollar figure involved was higher than I thought. But I want to put on the record that, in my view, we should pursue the facility. We should look at the option of the state acquiring it, but we should do so with an open mind and open eyes, that it will not be as large a facility, at least at the figures that I've read about, and its cost cannot approach the figure that was in the articles as well. It needs to be closer to \$1.5 million to be viable. Now, as for its use, it could be an excellent facility for youth in work camps or a secure unit for youth in the correction system. Likewise, it could be a very fine facility for individuals with mental health needs, particularly youth, and that is a need that we have in the state of Nebraska. We do send youth outside of the state because we don't have the facilities and services instate. This separates youth from their families, and it's something that is a problem we should address. This may not be the answer to that. There are other potential answers to this, but it's something to keep in mind as we discuss whether or not to pursue this facility. So I'm suggesting there are a number of options here. There's some concerns that we should have, but to not look into this is a mistake. So I rise in support of the Lindsay amendment and suggest that, in some fashion, we should adopt the underlying amendment as well. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, maybe before the evening is over, we will have a discussion that is broader than just bars, walls and the idea of a prison. I want you all to understand that I know it is necessary under some circumstances to deprive people of their freedom. That, though, is all we have been talking about. Senator Pedersen