

will almost get down on his knees and cry and grovel and beg to get some language relative to treatment or programming of a structureu kind into some of these facilities. So to placate Senator Pedersen, to accommodate him, to patronize him, some wording might be put in a bill which will only be words. What I want us to look at, since there is this facility that has come available, is doing something for our children. We often talk about family values, the terrible things that are happening to children. We even had some blue ribbons put out on our desks by Senator Fisher, to make sure that people would emphasize that child abuse should not occur. I think it is abusive when the state has the opportunity to provide a facility where services needed by children can be obtained, and the state refuses to do it. If there were two people standing before me, and I could only do one thing for one of them, and one of the things is to put handcuffs and shackles on one, or to give some time to liberating and healing the mind of the other, I would opt for healing the mind, and especially when we're talking about our children and our youth. It's easy...and I don't want Senator Fisher to think that I'm underplaying the importance of what he did. But he'll understand. It's easy for us to put ribbons on the desk, and to say that we believe child abuse should be discouraged. It would be easy for us to pass a resolution proclaiming not just one month, but the period in the calendar from January 1 through December 31 to child abuse prevention time, so that we know all year we want to prevent it. All of those things are easy. They don't cost anything. They don't do anything, but here we're presented with a golden opportunity, and maybe the opportunity is presented to us to see what we will do. We are stewards over the state's wealth. We are stewards when we're in this Legislature, who are charged with the responsibility to look after the needs of those who cannot take care of their own needs. None, in my way of thinking, are more vulnerable, or in need of our help than children and youth who need mental health services. There are problems that children have which can be corrected if caught in time and ministered to. If they are not, then we can continue talking about...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...building places to lock them up. And when somebody has a mental problem, that person is viewed as something less than a human. We will read about old days when they would lock up a family member in the closet because people