

southwest, which is Lincoln County, Omaha and Lincoln, and only parts of Lancaster County at that. That's it. The rest of the two-thirds of the state still have no support or facilities or process for young people going into the juvenile justice system. There still is nothing in two-thirds of the state. What we have in the budget now is \$600,000, which would add two more areas of the state to the list of developing the community-based programs. It would still leave out the southeast part of the state, and the north central part of the state, and the reason those areas are left out is one, the north central is very sparsely populated and, quite honestly, they try to put the dollars...have to put the dollars where there are more kids; and the southeast because they are somewhat close to Lincoln and they might be able to get some services, if they can, even though it is doubtful because the dollars are just there for the Lincoln and Lancaster County juveniles. What I would like to do is for the Legislature to make a commitment to say we believe in juvenile justice, we want the entire state to begin the process of community-based programming, so that next year, when OJS comes back to the Legislature, the entire state will be on the same ground, the same level, and we can move to the next area of...of the phase-in program of the juvenile justice process. Otherwise, next year we're still at where we are now, we will bring some parts of the state up to the beginning, other parts may try to move further, but we are going to be disjointed and we are not going to have a comprehensive statewide policy because we were not committed to begin it statewide. That's why I would like to override this portion, so that we could make sure that these programs are statewide, so that we can make a clear message to young people that we are going to do some things to help them, and if they do not care to improve, if they do not take advantage of it, there are tough issues that is out there, whether it be secure facilities or potential boot camps, that may be coming along in the future with Rivendell facility, or what have you. At this point in time, about two-thirds of the state does not have community programs, any help for the young people. I would like for us to say we want to make it statewide, we want to put the state on one plane so that next year we can go to the next phase. I think it is very important. The body has been very supportive of juvenile justice in the past. I am hoping that you can be there one more time. In closing on the opening, which may be an oxymoron, but, nonetheless, I want to remind the body for maybe my own benefit of what our legal requirements are for dollars. The Legislature