

overrides, but I think it's important, number one, that we fulfill our commitment so that people can not only develop trust in the process but trust in the Appropriations Committee, and so for that...for those reasons I will support the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of the Bernard-Stevens motion to override. I think he's made...the case that he makes is compelling. We have...we've made a commitment to community-based programs. We have made that commitment for a variety of reasons. If we look at the reasons, the number one reason I think is the effectiveness. It is more effective. We have a juvenile crime problem, not just in Omaha, and not just in Lincoln, but for many of you who live outside of Omaha and Lincoln, your constituents have raised those questions. The difference is, and why it may be even more important, is because those...those areas are earlier on in the progression of the increase in juvenile crime. Whereas that increase in problems has already occurred in Omaha and Lincoln, it has not increased yet, extended yet to, as much to those rural areas, and that's why I think getting in early, getting the changes implemented earlier can help correct these kids before they move on to more serious violations of law. The community-based programs are much more effective in doing that. Our goal is not to...is not to train kids at an early age to be able to create a life for themselves in prison, but rather to change the direction they are going so that they can, through some intervention, earlier on, to prevent them from ever having to go to prison, where we then invest a million dollars for their lifetime. The dollars that we're talking about were already reduced to maintain current level, funding level, before we even got to...before we even sent the bill over to the Governor. I think the dollar amount that is requested to be put back in, while certainly it's a chunk of money right now, it is a small investment for the future, and I think it's certainly something I think shows a commitment not just to those populated areas of the state, but also a commitment to some of the lesser populated areas of the state. That's...certainly there's been spending that we've taken care of in lesser populated areas but not spending that is so vital to Nebraska's future as investing in those children, especially those children who could become much larger drains on the state