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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Obviously, this is my last time, but I wanted to say the commitment we made to communities was not a commitment. We couldn't make a commitment because we didn't...we weren't allowed to. This body did not pass any legislation at this point that has given the Office of Community Justice the authority to give out granted money, and I know that the places they have talked to, they were told "if" we get the authority to hand out the money. So there is no commitment there. Are there people who want it? Yes, groups like myself and, I said, are already delivering the service. Senator Wehrbein mentioned a couple and he made me think that I needed to go through here. Here are some of the services that Probation is doing today, people; programs for fraudulent offenses, such as issuing bad checks; educational prevention programs for identified at-risk youth involved in minor in possession and vandalism offenses; transitional and halfway houses for alcohol and drug offenses, primarily for women offenders; community service projects; electronic monitoring. They've been ahead in electronic monitoring for some years. They have intensive probation, which is almost the same as day reporting because a lot of them people have to report to their probation officer daily. Outpatient treatment; pretrial diversion; reinstatement program for driving during suspension offenses--they're already doing it. These...we're talking about the same programs and that is going on today without this \$500,000 or any grants. And if we're going to put more money into it and we're going to give granting authority to other departments and other divisions then let's put some good study into it and do it right. We've had three bills up here. Senator Maurstad last year, and now Governor...Lieutenant Governor, brought the bill last year. It didn't pass. Got it...we talked about it on the last day of the Legislature because they were trying to amend it on something that didn't...there wasn't enough work done on it. It was brought up this year again by me and by Senator Brashear and we made an agreement that we would back off from it and wait. By repealing what I did last week, we are granting authority, in that one sentence, for this department to go ahead in setting up the authority for them to hand out money and to continue the way