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LB 880

That was the original intent and that's what we are at this point--communities seeking these programs, seeking funding for these programs, through these grants. The language that I am restoring puts back that right to appropriate that money. It was in the original committee amendment. Was taken out by Senator Pedersen so the money was going to be unusable if it was sitting there. And I will say it was unclear...that it wasn't as clear prior to this time as to whether that money could be appropriated or not. That's the reason for the committee amendment that we filed with LB 880 as far as Appropriations Committee is concerned. Governor...Senator Pedersen took that out. I am proposing to restore that so this program can move forward in those...especially in those communities have already made commitments, and there will be others coming on line with their specific proposals. I'm hesitant, but I always like to lay things on the line, I...this was not a study, this was an attempt to carry out what we have ongoing in these programs. But I acknowledge there's some differences of opinion to whether it ought to be Probation or it ought to be Corrections in the administering of this. And so, I don't want to confuse you, but the point would be that that still probably should be looked at. There's competing bills in Judiciary now as to where this should go and I think there are some issues still to be worked out. I acknowledge that. But for now I think we ought to continue with the program as originally intended; spend the money that we've allocated to that through the grant process, and that means restoring these words, which is my amendment, back into the committee amendments of the mainline appropriations bill, which is LB 880. Now I'd be happy to try to answer questions if there are any, but that, in essence, is what it is, and I do not, for one, intend to belabor the point beyond that unless there are questions.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I hope and I know all of you will vote as you see fit on this. I just wanted to use this opportunity to make one comment and it's something that I'll be looking in over the...looking into over the interim. But one of the big issues that came before the Juvenile Justice Task Force last summer was the fact that there's a lot of fragmentation in state government on the issues