

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 4, 1999

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aren't going to fill up as fast. And ten years from now, when most of us aren't in the Legislature anymore, we're not going to have to vote for the next prison to construct it, because we're not going to need it, because today's eight year olds, tomorrow's eighteen year olds, less of them are going to go to prison. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Dwite Pedersen.

**SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I stand to spend just a couple minutes with you on mentoring. I mentor people now. Most of the people I mentor at this stage of the game are already incarcerated. And I see some grins about that, but the fact is do we want them people to come back to this system and be the same type that they were before? But I've done mentoring of the youth, and I work in the Douglas County Youth Center. And I can tell you for every minute spent with these people in helping them, I'll bet we'll make up for at least any amount of money that you'll ever want to spend in this place in the future. You cannot continue to lock them up, and lock them up, and lock them up. We've got to look at other programs, other states are. In this state we're looking at spending a minimum of \$590 million in the next five years, \$590 million in locking people up in the Department of Corrections, that's just Corrections alone. Mentoring works. It helps people have somebody they can fall back on and somebody they can visit with and somebody they feel good about. I'm supportive of this. This is where we need to be spending money and the one thing, one of the programs that was on the bill we talked about here just a little bit ago that the Office of Community Justice is doing that made me smile and say this is a good program they are going to give money to was one that said mentoring. It's not the programs that are bad in that particular bill. It was just how...how it's administered. Mentoring is something that will prevent people from going to jail in the future and we need to take a good look at it and spend the money wisely. The people who do this mentoring give of themselves and the rewards are many. When I walk through a prison yard or down the hall of a prison visiting with prisoners, and come back after an hour and a half to 3 hours of spending time with them people out there, I feel like I did much more than spending 24 hours in this Chamber because the