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LB 637

it to those custodial parents as absolutely possible. There's no disagreement there. You do have to remember that we are currently collecting 64 percent, I believe is the figure, last figure I have, of child support that's due people in this state, now whereas the national average is 27 percent. My counties that I've checked with in my district, many of them are at 90 percent, and a couple of them say they're over 90 percent, so they're doing a good job. Now what I stand to offer here is there is another amendment coming up here to LB 637 that establishes a bit more accountability, and of course the State Disbursement Unit has a fund in it and so on. It also gives the Legislature the ability to direct a study, at the direction actually of the Exec Board and so on. I have talked to clerks of the district court, just in the last...well, their representative here, in the last couple hours. And the district court clerks are saying we can continue the services we're providing now, regardless of whether they get this money or not. You have to understand, too, that we're being sanctioned at this time. I believe the figure was \$700,000, I can't remember on that, but a considerable amount of money now because of the fact that our CHARTS system and JUSTICE systems are not totally...well, JUSTICE system is accessible in 53 different county or district court offices; CHARTS is basically inoperable, depending upon who you listen to. We had a meeting yesterday, and there are still varied opinions as to what CHARTS is doing and how well it's working. And I have had personal contact with various clerks and also county attorneys saying the things are not reliable. So, I gathered that there's still a lot of question as to whether, if we get a centralized collection system up and running, whether we really have all the parts there to do it. We can talk about it, but in all honesty, the CHARTS and JUSTICE systems aren't up to 100 percent in any way, shape, or form. So that's what we're currently being sanctioned for now by the federal government. Again, the compromise, I believe, has been worked out amongst a group of senators here, in the last couple of days we've had meetings. And I would suggest to the body that we go and look at...take a look at that, that's AM1786. So, with that, I would yield the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Don Pederson, to speak on the amendment.