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LB 638, 865

glad to answer them for you. This has been a very cohesive team that has worked on this, and Senator Thompson and myself, and I'm going to give some of this time to Senator Thompson, it was Senator Thompson's bill, LB 638, that she brought in, but both of us have served on this committee and requested to serve on it and she agreed to be the one, the primary carrier of the bill, and I'd like to give her some time to talk about it. Senator Thompson.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Pedersen. I'm the junior member of this team and I came to the issue when I was working on the juvenile justice work last summer and had the opportunity to join this committee and have a high degree of respect for them and the work that they've done up to now. But in order for them to move forward and take things to the next level, they need the statutory authority. I'd like to share a little bit of the information that was provided at the committee hearing, because I think it's important to the reasons why we need to take action on this bill. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reports that 33 percent of all criminal justice costs, that's not just corrections, that's all criminal justice costs, are related to substance abuse, and we know that substance abuse is a top predictor of recidivism in the system. And so we know that if we can do a better job of coordination and collaboration among the agencies of reducing duplication, of creating better lines of communication and using those resources that we have in the most effective manner, that we can impact the costs that we currently have in our criminal justice system but, more importantly, we can help turn around the lives of the people who have gone down this path and that, through some treatment resources, we know we can be effective, and research supports that. But we have to have good information. We have to use best practices information. We have to build on the research that's there. And, as many of you heard in the briefing last summer, mistakes can be made that can make things even worse. Let me share some of the information that was provided in the hearing. Research shows that lack of rehabilitative services actually increases the possibility of further criminal activity for high-risk offenders and, conversely, intensive programs for