

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

May 19, 1999

LB 878

for medical records and storage area. I've had some pictures circulated of the current very, very small, inadequate space for medical facilities. This is just one of many, many needs at these facilities. To revisit an issue that I brought up before, it's on the yellow sheet, we've made a tremendous commitment to adult facilities in the state, and these are figures that are based on appropriations that were already made or under planning for the next...starting from '96 to now for the adult system, and it is a tremendous commitment. I am hopeful that next session, when we come back with the facility plan we'll be ready to go with a serious commitment to upgrading these facilities to bring them to design standards that are appropriate so that we can do a better job. And that the kids who stay there have conditions that we can be assured are secure, are safe and are reasonable and are decent. And I'm hopeful that we can make that commitment to our juvenile facilities. And I appreciate the Governor leaving a substantial piece of this money in the budget. I'm grateful to him and to all of you for making this commitment to get us started, and we've laid the groundwork to begin, but we have many serious issues ahead of us. I also want to mention too that this is just one piece of the issues of the juvenile justice system. I've gotten a lot of calls from people who provide services, who work with kids in other settings. These are our facilities, our state facilities that we're responsible for. In addition, we have funding that goes to private providers for a lot of services and they're based at the community level, and we need to make sure that we keep our community-based services that the state provides. And also work with our partners in county government and in community organizations who are doing very, very good work with some kids with some initial problems, to try to head off them ever entering our system. And with that, I know there are a number of other people who want to address this issue and, again, I had hoped that we would be able to have more funding so that when we have the plan we can hit the ground running. We have some funding and I hope to be back in...well, I hope to be back tomorrow actually, but I hope to be back next year with a plan that I know several of you want to work on and help with to address these very serious needs at these facilities. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. The speaking