

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

April 11, 2000 LB 652

of a lot less, if they did it when the kids were younger. If we don't do it, who is going to do it? And, if we don't do it now, when will it be done? So I will be voting for this override. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Brown, on the motion to override.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is an issue that I have been agonizing over. It is something that is very important to Douglas County, I think it's very important to the kids of this state and yet I'm not certain that we have in place the full part of the plan that we need to have in place to move forward. I will echo some of the previous speakers that LB 652 does a lot of the right things, but I don't think it does all the things. And we have been piecemealing what we're doing in terms of juvenile services. We were not satisfied, as an Appropriations Committee, with the plan that was brought to us by Health and Human Services, and we chose not to move forward on a parole revocation facility, on the funding for parole revocation facility in the urban area. That is something that I think is a critical piece that if you have kids who have been in trouble, who have been to Kearney, that they do something small when they're back in their home community, that they have an immediate consequence to that. I also think that we need to be doing a lot more in terms of community justice activities, preventative activities. That's why the Appropriations Committee recommended overriding the Governor's veto on the Medicaid reimbursement rate so that we could have those services available that are community-based and hopefully we could get more of them. Now, it's been a bit of a chicken and egg, until the state assumes their responsibility for these kids, and there is a very real responsibility on the state's part for these children, then the counties don't have the money to put into community-based services. On the other hand, if we move forward without...with a shift in responsibility to the state without having in place some sort of a process where we're going to be guaranteed that there is going to be the development of those community-based programs, I'm not sure that we are going anywhere or going at least comprehensively where we need to be. The funding for this or the actual implementation is a year away. And I know what Senator Hudkins said, and we have