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FLOOR DEBATE

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others.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I wholeheartedly support Senator Chambers' amendment, AM1156 to LB 46. When we first put in the personalized plan, it was never ever meant to be a disciplinary tool by the Department of Corrections and it has been used as a disciplinary tool ever since they wrote rules and regulations to go with the good time bill. We have a lot of things in LB 46, but some of the things we do not have is any real changes which some people would consider micromanaging in the Department of Corrections. This bill is working with helping to keep people out on the front end, and helping people after they get out on the back end. This is the first amendment, first serious attempt to do anything actually to change the way some of the things that happen in the Department of Corrections. It is the right thing to do. The Parole Board can use this and should use it, but it is not a disciplinary tool. That is not what personalized plan was meant for, and this amendment will change that, and I urge you to support it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Combs, followed by Senator Brashear.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I also rise in support of Senator Chambers' amendment. I did have the opportunity to go with some other senators and actually visit the State Penitentiary a couple of weeks ago, and we got to talk to some inmates who were there. And one inmate that we talked to did address the personalized program plan and his disappointment in that program as far as meeting the specific needs he had. And it would be a darn shame if we used a program that did not have the respect and confidence of the inmates as a punitive measure against them in parole when they were honestly trying to make a good faith effort to do better and reform themselves and get back out in society. So I do support the Chambers amendment and I ask you on behalf of the inmates at least that I have spoken to when I was there visiting to do so also. And I would give my time to Senator Chambers, if he would desire.