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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2003      LB 46

50 percent stay with probation and parole. And they can apply that to their expertise, supervise units of supervision, equipment purchases, additional staff, specialized staff, specialized units of supervision. Let 50 percent stay with probation. Let them use it within their sphere of influence or their sphere or expertise. And let the treatment community, let the treatment community, as is currently arranged in our system, under the region system, which every county would be involved in this community corrections scheme now with this amendment, let them be involved in their expertise with the treatment of this group of offenders. So with that, I would request the adoption of the amendment to broaden our capacity for treatment to include treatment as an important aspect, as it is and it should be, in our move to community corrections. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. You've heard the opening on AM1217, offered by Senator Synowiecki to LB 46. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in respectful opposition to Senator Synowiecki's amendment. Obviously, he brings a great deal of valuable front-line experience to the body. And I'm glad we're having this debate. He is concerned about and cautious of duplicating bureaucracy. And he's right, and we should be. But I cannot yet join him in this effort. And I'll try to summarize why. In the process of putting this all together, we don't have a community corrections system, and we need one. We want something that is done correctly and is done statewide. This may in fact be an idea that in another session should be grabbed hold of and pursued. But the fact of the matter is, we haven't have a hearing on the concept of taking half of this money and moving it over to the regions. I'm not saying that is per se bad. Nor am I saying it is per se impossible. I'm simply saying, that is somewhat...although it has the benefit and...of Senator Synowiecki's experience as he's testified to it on this floor, that's somewhat experimental, just like this is. And we never envisioned in the working group that LB 46 would be the beginning and the end, the alpha and omega, so to speak. This is only the beginning. And we'll have, in round numbers, \$2 million of money from these fees, we estimate, in the first