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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

month, but some of them are six month. A lot of our people go to six months into the work release centers. And the problem with the youth facility in Omaha is cost. You know, we need to put it on the record as many times as we can what that facility costs us. We have...I'm trying to find it here...here it is, Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility is costing us \$56,727 a year per inmate. We could put them in private lock-up places for half that price. It's a terrible waste of money. And I will tell you this. And the department talks about that they don't want...they want to separate the kids, the only kids that we have in that facility which we consider kids in this state under the age of 18 is 10. There's only 10 kids in that facility under the age of 18. Now that doesn't mean that some of them 18-year-olds that they do have out there, which is 24, wouldn't be immature and need that kind of placement, but if we were so worried about them why do we have other 18-year-olds out in general population? We have 40 19-year-olds in that facility, and we have 46 other 19-year-olds out in general population. So if they're worried about, you know, they say they always use the scare tactic that we're going to put them kids out in general population and victimize them, 19-year-olds to me are not kids, 18-year-olds are very close to kids, but the money that they're costing us is something that seriously needs to be looked at and changed. With that, Mr. President, I would respectfully have you take that amendment from the agenda.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You withdraw the amendment, Senator Pedersen? Did you withdraw the amendment, Senator Pedersen?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Yes, I withdraw.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, when you get time, next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bromm would move to amend, AM1896. (Legislative Journal pages 1807-1808.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on your amendment to LB 407.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment is an