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SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Thompson. And this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. Senator Beutler, some of the issues that you raised were the exact reasons for bringing the original statute and for...or the original bill that was passed in the 2000 Session, and I can...just to...just...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...reviewing the reasons we brought the original underlying bill a couple years ago was for some of the reasons you discussed. And what their...the concern was that there was no standardized definition of juvenile diversion, that the availability varied and the administration and content of the programs across the state varied widely, but also that there were no data available to know exactly what was going on or to monitor it. So, in committee, we talked about that a little bit and this is the first step and this is bringing all the players to the table and saying, at this point in our history, how far can we get. And so...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...this is saying we're going to make it...we'll have a definition, we're going to set some standards, and we're going to have the data available to the Crime Commission. And perhaps after that monitoring process goes on for a few years we could get to some of the other decisions. But the broad issues that have always bothered me about it is if you're a child who's arrested in Sarpy County, versus a child who's arrested in another county in the state, are you going to have a similar treatment in the system? And, you know, that's true of all the criminal justice system. You really can't get to a perfection level on things like that. But this is to at least put the state on a course where we have some standards, some guidelines, and the data, which we haven't had up to this point, and maybe improve upon some of that. But at this point, there's no opposition. All those parties came to the table. It could be better. It would be different if I wrote it myself,