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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and I appreciate the remarks by my esteemed Chairperson of both the Judiciary Committee and the Community Corrections Council. However, with regard to the closing of the Lincoln Correctional Center last year, and comparing this to the closing of the Work Ethic Camp, it's comparing apples and oranges, because we do not have the parole ramifications, the public safety ramifications with the closing of WEC. Again I'll reiterate, those folks are all on ISP. They will all be gone within three or four months. Those that are there now will be gone in three or four months, back to an intensive supervision probation officer. So the same ramifications that we have with LCC do not exist with this. With regard to Senator Dwite Pedersen's mentioning of the...what are the offender selection worksheet scores, and this is given to us by the Work Ethic Camp, and I believe these were 2003 numbers, out of offender selection worksheet scores, 1,851 of them in which offenders scored eligible for intensive supervision, probation and WEC, slash WEC, for those that scored favorable for that placement out of 1,851, 103 went to WEC and/or I...excuse me, 103 went to WEC. Out of that population that was eligible for WEC, 258 were put on traditional probation. So this idea that Senator Baker is attempting to get across that those that go to the Work Ethic Camp, or that population that is characterized by these well-defined offender work selection sheets, that population that was defined as being eligible for the Work Ethic Camp, 258 of them went to traditional probation. They didn't even go to ISP. Only 103 went actually to the Work Ethic Camp that were eligible for the Work Ethic Camp. Again, 258 went to traditional probation; 426 went to jail; 565 went to the Department of Corrections, which is your highest end of care in terms of institutional corrections. And my...what I'm submitting is that under AM3400 we're going to bring on 20 more intensive supervision probation officers to attempt to divert that 565 that was sent to the penitentiary. The department...the probation department informs us that with the \$1.2 million added to their budget, they will be able to hire 20 officers; 20 officers equates to servicing 500 offenders, perhaps/perhaps not that 565 that went to the Department of Corrections. I hope this makes sense. I mean, it makes sense to me in terms of common-sense approach, thinking out of the box. Those that are going to the Work Ethic Camp are