

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2005 LB 53

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I do rise in support of the amendment and to the bill. In behavioral health reform, we have talked about recovery. And we try to move individuals to recovery, back to productive citizenship. And to me, to hold somebody who has completed a sentence and has paid their debt, to not restore some of those rights I think is wrong. First of all, once you have that designation "felony" on your record, it's a life term. Now, we talk about term limits here, but that's a life term. It doesn't go away unless you ask for that pardon. And you don't ask for that pardon until at least you've had ten years. I don't know where we came up with that figure, whether that was arbitrarily applied, what other the states are doing with that. I don't know. I do know that many individuals make mistakes in their lives, and we as a society, sometimes we forgive and sometimes we don't forgive. But I think if...I'm more interested in what they're doing with their lives at that point in time. And if they have tried to make restitution, and if they've tried to change their life around, to me, that's more important than a number of days or a number of years. So I would really say, let's not hold any citizen back from their full potential. And if they have paid that debt to society and wish to lead productive lives again, boy, I'm more than willing to allow that to happen. So I would...I'm certainly going to vote for this amendment and the bill. And Senator Smith, if you would like some of my time, you're welcome to that. And I'll render my time to Senator Smith.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you. Senator Smith, you have three minutes.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Would Senator Schimek yield to a question?

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Schimek, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schimek,...and I don't want to spend an