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LB 535, 633, 713

it's very difficult to, as you all know, to get off the floor and...off the legislative floor and get that time scheduled, and so I need to do that and I will do that. I make that commitment to you. Our struggle is this. I know...I know that there were...there was a lot of work put into this by you and Senator Pahls. Just to remind the body that we did have opposition to both bills, particularly on LB 535. We had a public defender who came in and testified in opposition and had some problems with how the bill would work. On LB 633 we had a judge from Lancaster County that came and testified in opposition. And I will tell you, Senator Synowiecki, that we tried to respond to those concerns, as well. We tried to balance the advocacy concerns, the people who brought us the green copy, with those people who are also in the system, the judge and the public defender in this case who opposed several provisions in the bill. I tell you where I think I broke down or the committee perhaps broke down is that we didn't involve these groups enough in consensus to try to come to middle ground, and that was simply a time factor. These are fairly emotional issues and people tend to invest of themselves in them, and so I made the decision that we were just going to work with the committee. We were going to respond to those people in the system who opposed the bills and, unfortunately, in doing so, we did not strike a balance where I feel that it is safe to proceed at this particular time. I would be happy to sit down with you, with Senator Pahls, or anyone, for that matter, between now and Select, or obviously we will be working on this throughout the interim and would mostly...would very much appreciate your input and Senator Pahls', as well.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne and Senator Synowiecki. Did you wish to take your time back, Senator?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: That's fine. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yeah. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Just briefly, I wanted to comment on Senator Flood's remarks. And I appreciate the fact that he's interested and he's going to carry on with some of these issues that are more difficult to write the law in