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policy relative to how we deal with this population. This amendment is right on target with the essence of the underlying bill. The underlying bill addresses the interventions at the front end of the criminal justice system. And I just think that it is incumbent upon us to also have some sort of public policy attention to the post-conviction. I have talked with the probation administrator relative to this. This is a no-brainer. These are no-brainer provisions that we're having in here. I talked to the parole administrator, or to the Department of Corrections head. They're moving with these perhaps on an administrative basis, but I'd like to see this as a public policy in our statutes. Don't let the fact that there's going to be a study this summer deflect from what we need to do to have appropriate attention, well-rounded attention, to this problem. This is a serious problem, and probation officers have obstacles and barriers statutorily based that provide barriers to them doing effective work with this population. This amendment attempts to bring down some of them barriers. It attempts to draw a focus on our public policy attention of this group and give them the tools necessary to carry out their duties, and so we have a dramatic decrease in recidivism. You know, I think that is a very serious problem with this population, is the fact of their high level of recidivism. That study, Senator Bourne, isn't going to address that. It's not going to address the recidivism factors and our lack of attention to this problem in our statutes. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I won't speak again on this particular amendment, other than to urge you to reject it. If you read the amendment, it says that a person on probation or parole must satisfactorily attend and complete an appropriate mental health...(cough)--Senator Synowiecki has me so flustered I can hardly speak--satisfactorily attend and complete an appropriate mental health or drug abuse assessment conducted by a licensed mental health professional or substance abuse professional authorized to complete such assessment and complete recommended treatment and counseling. The point of the