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LB 425

Senator Foley now. Senator Kruse. Senator Thompson, for what purpose do you...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Can I reverse my decision to waive closing?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your time is still running, Senator.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: About 2.5 minutes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: What this...thank you very much. This veto override is for money for centers that medically examine children who have been sexually abused and physically abused. They are centers that last year, we asked that a coordinator be placed in to help coordinate the prosecution of the investigation of their assault on their bodies, and in some cases, it will be their spirits, as time goes on. Anyway, they are taken there. It's one place that is less sterile and scary than being in a police station or a sheriff's office, to be examined for this kind of an assault. What has happened since we put the coordinators there is that in addition to sexual assault cases, which these centers are set up for, with medical personnel, physical assault cases are being brought there, and they are not set up to be able to take the high numbers that have started coming in, in the last year since we made that decision. I asked them to come forward when they told me about their problem, with the exact amount they needed. They didn't have a lobbyist. They came in with the exact amount, and the Appropriations Committee gave them the exact amount. They need this money to serve these children who have been physically and sexually assaulted in our communities.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: And we need this statewide. They can do it statewide at these centers. They can't do it now, and they can't do it without this money. The kids are going to be...are hurt, they are hurting. They deserve our support. You're the ones who speak for them. There is no one else. So you can leave it the way it is, and have those children turned away, or