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individuals that are involved in the juvenile justice system--the chief of police, a long-time juvenile judge--who come in and say, if we had had a program like this in place, a number of kids would have turned out differently, and I'm compelled by it. I commend Senator Brashear for introducing this bill. This is the exact out-of-the-box, progressive type of legislation that we need to support and promote here in our state. And with that, again, I'm going to support the Education Committee, the underlying bill, and Senator Pederson's amendment as well. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Loudon, Senator Brashear, Senator Wehrbein, and Senator Howard.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members, I, too, support the underlying bill, the committee amendment, and the...and Senator Pederson's amendment. Whoever came up with this methodology to utilize the money, I think it was very, very clever, and I'm not sure that I want to give that credit yet to Senator Raikes, so I'll just say "whoever." I think that this...the stories that Senator Bourne just told were very compelling, because they were the real-life stories, but the documentation of all the studies that have gone on, and much research has gone on about early childhood education programs, especially those for at-risk young people, has shown the large dollar benefit from it. And so even in the bridge part that Senator Pederson was talking about, the \$2 million piece, not only are we getting that matched by the private sector, actually twice that much matched for the one year, we are also getting a reduction in special education. There's a 40 percent less decrease in the placements of kids at risk in special education if they've been involved in a high-quality early childhood program. That is an immediate dollar savings that we are going to see as soon as these kids go into the K-12 system, and that's a very substantial amount of money. Then you move into the likelihood that they will graduate from high school is 29 percent higher, that the...their involvement in crime is a third less, and a 42 percent less chance of them being involved in violent offenses. This is one of those things where we bemoan having the money to be able to do it. We found a...these kinds of prevention activities