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LB 925

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: ...or what's been going on at University of Nebraska. They're doing fine. Their drinking is going down at that school. Their binging is going down. And that hasn't been consequences; that's been education. This law that we're about to make here is not going to stop drinking, and it's not going to tell...a young person is going to say, I can't go out tonight because I'm scared of LB 925. This isn't going to stop it. Education does work. Consequences, yes, we have to have some. But if we make them so tough that you can't go backwards, then we're going to lose out, and not just emotionally, but we're going to lose out financially. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dwite Pedersen. Senator Synowiecki, followed by Senator Redfield and others. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and thank you, Senator Pedersen, for your disclos...you know, your...what are obviously personal disclosures. And I appreciate your comments. And Senator Kruse, I agree with you. We're talking about an activity here. We're talking about people that are driving drunk. And we're talking a population, particularly on the third offense, quite frankly, that repulses me on this habitual drunk driving. It was one of the toughest populations to work with in my former employment. But I agree that our goal in our statutory framework has to be such that we interdict that behavior, that we put an end to that behavior. And I'll tell you that you can make these statutes as punitive as you want, but you're still going to have, because of chronic alcoholism, you're still going to have drunk driving third offenders. And the question is, from a public policy statement, do you want to intercede with that population, and give a certain level of discretion to the courts for those that go see an individual like Senator Dwite Pedersen, get evaluated, enroll themselves into residential treatment and then aftercare and then participate in the self-help groups that Senator Pedersen talks about, and go through an array of steps to change their lives...and I guess my point is, do you know why they do that? Because they're looking right squarely at losing their license for 15 years, and essentially, when you take an individual's license for 15 years, you are indeed disengaging them from