

does is deal with nonviolent offenders who have other options closed off to them within the prison system, such as education, such as drug rehabilitation, alcohol rehabilitation, because of the cost, the appropriations problems at the Corrections Department, and the nonviolent offender comes into the system and oftentimes remains there for the term, and then comes out and has had no opportunity for education, rehabilitation, or very little opportunity. That's one reason. The second reason for community corrections is the, conceptually, is the piece that talks about the offender coming back into the community, earning a living while in the community and while incarcerated within the corrections system in some facility, but earning a living and paying into the Victims' Reparation Fund a substantially greater proportion of money, dollars, than is being paid now by individuals working in the prison system. It gives them that opportunity. It brings the individual back into the community from which they came, hopefully to, have come from, hopefully to develop more of an awareness of the community to work with community service endeavors while there to get the good established... establish good positive relationships back in the community. The idea for community corrections is not to be a substitute for probation. It does not, in most cases would involve an individual who has served some time in the penal system and is ready for parole within a year or nine months, six months, nine months, a year. Those are the, primarily the persons that we are talking about that would go into community corrections. What is remarkable about this endeavor, though, is that it has been tried in 17 or 18 states, and has been implemented in 17 or 18 states across the country extremely successfully. It has an impact on recidivism. It has a very positive impact on the budget because the cost of the inmate, which is estimated about 20,000 today in the prison system is reduced substantially to a much lesser amount than, obviously, the 20,000. In addition to that, the individual is required to work and to pay into the system and help pay for his or her food or lodging, and can make a positive impact on the budget. In Colorado, which is a state which has very successfully implemented a community corrections program, there have been between seven and eight hundred inmates diverted into community corrections at a substantial savings to those states. And, again, what's also interesting about community corrections, and I was reading in a State Legislatures magazine in October, talked about how the public perceives different prison alternatives, and there was a poll taken by a foundation that works in these areas, and what was determined by this poll and