

by this, and I will send it around later in the debate if you want to see it, was that the public accepted community corrections as a positive thing for nonviolent offenders. It was a positive alternative which the public perceives as being in the best interest of the public generally, and of the individual who was sentenced to a period of incarceration. I will send that around to you. In a nutshell then, in summary, what I would ask that we consider doing at this point is to include the concept of community corrections in Section 50 of LB 627, with the understanding, Senator Hohenstein, that we would come up with some specific language between now and Select File that could be implemented. Lastly, my concern is that if we do not talk about community corrections at this point in the process, and if we talk solely about boot camps, and we limit, and we put an implementation date of July 1, 1996 on boot camp without community corrections as part of the process, the Department of Corrections, which is already overtaxed in their ability financially to deal with these problems, are not going to focus on community corrections, but will be...will focus on what the Legislature has mandated which would be the boot camp. So I think from a procedural point of view that this is an important amendment. Finally, the Governor's task force on prison reform, the final report will be coming out I believe soon. I have seen...some of you may have seen the preliminary draft. It emphasizes the need to get into community corrections as an option. It is...and that task force spent a considerable amount of time studying other systems, prison systems throughout the country, looking at the options that were available in Nebraska, talked to law enforcement, corrections people across the state, and they concluded that community corrections was something that was a positive, both financially and guaranteeing the safety and security of the citizens by limiting the process to nonviolent offenders, that it really was a positive think for us to take a look at. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move this amendment. Simply, again, by putting into Section 50 a recognition along with the boot camp process that community corrections is an important process. In fact, it has been utilized in many more states than boot camps have been utilized. It is becoming an accepted form of prison reform across the country. I would like Nebraska to be part of that process if possible. It is the second year I've brought the community corrections bill to the Legislature. I think it is time, if we are going to get into this area, that we put it in here and now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.