

coming in. Another part of the task force looked at parole, which is commonly known as the back end of the prison, letting them out the other door. And I can report to you that there are no easy answers. And the state, at the moment, is over the 150 percent of design capacity limits, which is sort of the magic threshold around the country. If you were looking in your NCSL magazines, over the last two months, you probably saw a map, and I don't have it at my fingertips, but Nebraska was sort of an island out there. We are one of the few states that has high prison overcrowding who have not yet been put into federal mandates or been put under the order of the federal district court. And that may soon change. There are over 40 states that have at one point or time or another currently are under federal court order to make changes. Those changes can range all the way from not letting anyone else into the prison, towards building more prisons, towards releasing people, all of which are very unattractive alternatives. One of the things that the front end said was to have a system impact study of some kind. And what it really is, if we're going to put our pocketbook where our collective political desires are, and it's become very fashionable, of course, to increase penalties, but with that comes the social cost. LB 507, quite frankly, is a good piece of government, in terms of making us responsible, that if we're going to take the step that's popular, and that's increased penalties many times, you take the corresponding step, and that's responsibility to pay for those things. You've probably seen in your fiscal notes over the last couple of years, on any one given basis, the Department of Corrections has given you a fiscal note that may include also the impact on building, other capital items to house these increases in inmates. This, as Senator Warner and Senator Moore have explained to you, goes towards the per diems and the medical expenses which are really the actual costs that are most immediate as you increase the capacity or increase the numbers of people in those systems. LB 507, I think, goes a long way. There will be days when we'll sit here and say, boy, that's kind of hard for us to do because we need the money. But that's exactly what the bill is designed to do is to make us stop and pause and put some fiscal responsibility into our decisions, particularly when it comes to criminal sentences. With that, I would urge the advancement of 507. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Beutler.