

oppose Senator Abboud's amendment because just like when this body passed LB 830 dealing with developmental disabilities a few years back, you know, if we can't afford it now, we push it out to the next biennium and show it then and I think that's the wrong way to make policy. If the members of this Legislature think it is a good idea to go down the path of developing a boot camp, which I, myself, don't have that much problem with. Actually, I do support doing that and I think it makes some sense. The only thing that I think is important that you do though, recognize the cost of doing that when you pass the bill and don't put it out just to try and keep the cost of it down on the sheet so you can pass it and then all of a sudden two years from now we're in the Legislature and saying, well, you know we have to come up with \$5 million because really all this does, this amendment would do, it puts up the cost, about \$5 million, out beyond the upcoming biennium, but it's still there, it's still there, though it doesn't show this year so we don't have to fund it this year. But it's still there in the out years and I just think that's a poor way...you know it's like one of those things that this is a good idea, but we don't want to fund it now so we're going to just make the funding go away in the near term, but then two years from now it's going to be law and we're going to have to fund it. And that's a method of backing the Legislature into a corner by doing something which may accomplish the goal of getting a bill passed, but it will not accurately reflect the cost of this legislation. Because if the bill says there shall be a boot camp, I don't know if it's '94, '98, 2004, it's mandating some sort of increased cost to our prison system. And the only thing, and I've said time and time again, I'm not opposed to strengthening the penalties of 627, but I firmly believe this Legislature and this state needs to go on with this debate with its eyes open knowing what the cost is going to be because if you want to get tough on crime, when the bill comes to you, you've got to be willing to pay for it and you need to know that now, not later. And that's why I think 507, a bill that Senator Warner has introduced, it's on Select File, it's a very good piece of legislation and to me it's not to deter passage of bills like 627 in its original form, all I'm saying is, if you're going to pass a bill that increases prison population, that increases the need to construct prisons or not, if it's straight inmate per diems, nevertheless, there is a cost involvement there. Whatever the cost is to get tough on crime, I think we ought to know about it up front, and though Senator Abboud's amendment would certainly take care of a need for any sizable A bill of any size, I think it's a bad way to pass