

For me this is an important, important priority, I guess, in combination with the youth violence bill, my biggest priority of the year, I would ask you to at least consider whether we are making a long-term mistake to save us \$600,000 this year. I would urge you to vote in favor of the override motion.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the motion to override the veto for this provision. The issue is one of 600,000 to increase probation officers salaries. It has been recommended by both the Governor's task force on prison alternatives as well as the legislative task force in this area that this needs to be done. It is a priority that has to take place. We took it as a priority and placed this additional funding into the budget, and when we heard this issue before the Judiciary Committee, the Judiciary Committee, as a block, voted to support this as one of the most important things that we saw out there that had to be addressed. The \$600,000, and I know one of the things that is floating around, and Senator Lindsay alluded to it, was where the money may or may not come from. The developmental disabilities monies are in a different bill. They are over there. We won't have the ability to deal with that issue. What the Governor does with that is what the Governor decides to do. That's his prerogative. We won't have the ability to come back and address that. Here today, right now, we have the ability to address this issue, and I believe it is an important one that we should override the veto. I understand the need to address the budget, and it is not an attack on the Governor for his veto. It is merely a point to say that this issue has been here a number of times. It has to be addressed. It is not a question of when...a question of if, it is a question of when we decide to pay these individuals an appropriate salary. We put that in the budget, I think we ought to be willing to put it back in there. I have talked to both the individual in Douglas County who handles the adult probation and the individual who handles the juvenile probation, and one of them brought up the fact that they had heard that folks felt that this was, somehow a large portion of this, about one third was going toward administration somehow, and not to the front line individuals. They, in unison, both of them, said that we don't want one dime of this money for folks in the administrative side of things because their salaries are comparable to what takes place in the Department of Corrections. They firmly believe that every