

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Hall touched on, touched on the issue that basically I was going to start with, that I am a strong supporter of the developmental disabilities money. I would have preferred to see that at \$8 million. I would have preferred to see it at the \$4 million that went over, or the two and a half or two million that it is going to end up in. But the fact is, as Senator Bromm mentioned, this is a tough vote. There is not a person in this body that doesn't like...that enjoys being put in the position of having to select between the developmentally disabled and these probation officers. I would suggest to you there are a couple of other bills out there that for whatever comfort level it might give us that the Governor has the opportunity to take that money away from. It doesn't have to be one or the other, and for me, I would like to see some other priorities. That's nothing I have any control over, but there are other possibilities out there. These probation officers don't just overlook the probationers. They have a lot of duties. They are the ones who do the investigation that tells us or tells the judges how much time, if they should have time, criminals are going to get. They are the ones that really have the biggest input into a judge's sentencing decision. We talk about mandatory minimum, we talk about sentencing caps, but the person who is going to influence that decision is going to be that probation officer, that inexperienced probation officer that we are going to keep on, that inexperienced probation officer who is not going to find a felony in another state that is going to have a big impact on that sentence. That's the kind of thing we look at. That's one of the problems we are going to run into. We start our probation officers at \$19,350, for a four-year degree. I talked to a couple of them that have five years experience, one with three kids, one with two kids, they are making around 22,000. They can qualify for food stamps. Think about what they are getting, and what we are...the responsibilities we are telling them to do. Think about those massive responsibilities. The Court Administrator's Office has come back, and you have that letter on your desk that says, the \$600,000, if that's too much, they have pledged, the Court Administrator's Office has pledged we won't spend the \$180,000 to give anything above the line officers, we will give it to those that are having the direct contacts with the criminals.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.