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LB 1217

to recognize that and to please vote to override this veto.
Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Senator Kiel just mentioned one of the areas that I've...I've got concern about and that is, when we have a cutting of these beds and not having the beds to put these people, we have...we end up with more people in jail. We have quite a few people in prison today that are being treated for mental health problems, and not well, I might say, because that isn't what Corrections is meant to do. We have people in what they call a control unit, most commonly segregation...called segregation or "the hole" on the street, who are there for long periods of time because of mental illness and they can't control them even in the institution. We had a case recently in Washington County, I understand, that couldn't get a bed and ended up a suicide before they could get services. These numbers will go up if we do not take care of these type of things. This is very important and I urge you to please support the override on this line item. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm glad that Senator Wickersham gave his imprimatur to this override. I'm going to support it too. But as I've said in the past, Senator Bourne, I detect a disturbance in the force. That last vote could be an indication of backbone. I'm going to see if that's what it really means. I hope we do not move from quasi-backbone to backsliding and backtracking. This item is as consequential and significant, though not as costly at this moment, as the other vote that we took. I don't believe anything can be added to what has been said already that would persuade somebody to vote for this override who is not already persuaded. There were 43 votes. I just hope against hope that on occasion my colleagues can do what is the right thing and don't consider it the right thing only when permission has been granted in advance. My final comment: if just for once a flock of sheep could behave as a pride of lions, the correct vote on this override is yes. That yes vote may not take us to the