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social well-being of the state that parents receive the support they need to raise healthy and successful children. READY is part of that kind of support. It's intended to offer good, timely, and relevant information to young parents at the time they are probably the most receptive--the birth of a child. The concept of READY is sound. It calls for a comprehensive array of information covering topics of health, and child safety, and child development. It recognize that learning to read begins at birth, by encouraging early reading, and by linking parents to community literacy resources. It will link parents to important emergent information about the importance of early brain development to children's long-term success. A recent study notes that most parents are not aware of the importance of this new information about child development. Over the last decade the agencies, Education, and Health and Human Services, have worked together around these issues. We have resources developed that can be gathered together to create READY. These include both parenting education information and initiative around early literacy. While ongoing resources would be needed to produce and distribute the packet, READY does create a mechanism for bringing that about. As you might have heard, the Governor, in the last month or so, has initiated This Side Up tee shirts to remind parents that they must place their baby on its back to prevent SIDS. And these are the kinds of things that would be made available in this packet. This was funded through block grants and other kinds of foundations, SIDS foundations and things like that, throughout the state. So I would encourage you to support this. There are some amendments that the committee did. There was a specific list in my bill, and that list will...will be given just to the department and to Health and Human Services to be able to do whatever they want to, and not be tied to a specific list. And then Senator Beutler has an amendment, too, that will make it clear that these departments must find private funds through corporations. And I'd appreciate your support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes, Chair of the Education Committee, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.