

and Senator Murphy. Well, Senator Murphy had another question as well. But, let's talk about cost for a second. First off, I don't think that we're talking about the fiscal impact that some have raised here. I don't think that there's going to be the great cost to the State of Nebraska that some would have you believe. They are already teaching Health Education. As Senator Venditte said, they are already teaching in some cases mental retardation and its causes and prevention. So there are already provisions for teaching in this manner and on this subject, but the materials that we need and some of the training that we need, that would cost some money. But...but that's not a major fiscal impact. When we talk about cost of money, let's talk about the children in this state that are cared for by the State of Nebraska, the children that go to Beatrice, that go to our community based programs, that need the assistance of the state because they are developmentally disabled, they are mentally retarded and they need help. The cost of these individuals per person is about four to forty thousand dollars...each individual, and that's in pure fiscal figures. When we start talking about the impact of mental retardation, we're talking about more than money. We're talking about human suffering. We're talking about families being torn apart. We're talking about individuals that have to suffer their lifetimes being mentally retarded. That's really the costs that are involved in this, and that's really the cost that I'm trying to get at. It's the cost in human terms. But if you want to talk dollars and cents, even in dollars and cents, this is a very prudent measure. The money we're going to spend now is going to be...it's going to get away from the pennywise poundfoolish attitude we've had with mental retardation in the past. We can talk about thousands and millions of dollars going to mental retardation programs, but let's talk about hundreds of dollars that will help us prevent children from suffering from mental retardation. That's really I think the long term benefits involved in this bill. As far as Senator Venditte's point about, well, mental retardation causes and problems are already being taught about in our schools, it's being taught at Senator Venditte's school and that's fine, and there are some schools in the urban areas that do teach this, but not across the state, not throughout the state, and not in most of the schools in this state, and I think that we need to make this a statewide program and that's why we need this legislation. It's very important that we make this a state policy that it's important that we have people understand what mental retardation is and how it can be prevented. This should be a prime priority for the State of Nebraska. As far as the question of Senator Murphy concerning mandating curriculum, I really oppose curriculum