

approach of providing for mandatory minimum sentencing. The legislation followed their approach on dealing with this problem. I think that...I think that we've all seen the harms not only to the individuals that are using the drugs, but the harms to society. It is unfortunate that there is a killing, at least a killing a day in Washington, D.C. It's unfortunate that there is a killing a day, drug related killings in Los Angeles. It's unfortunate the amount of bloodshed that has taken place over the sale of cocaine and crack throughout this nation. And I think that the only way that society can really deal with this problem is as we are dealing with the problem. There are no simple solutions to this, but it has to be a multifaceted approach to deal with this problem. Now the City of Omaha, I believe the police force is doing a good job in dealing with the problem. The four arrests that would have provided for the maximum or to this, a five-year mandatory minimum on the arrests of 36 grams, 30, two for 30 grams and one for 84 grams, all involved arrests at crack houses. So crack houses are, in fact, being shut down. Unfortunately, what we're having, and this is one of the basic reasons for the bill, is we're having individuals coming in from other states, most notably from the California area. They come in and they sell their drugs here in this state to individuals and they encourage other people to sell their drugs. They are well aware of which states have the mandatory minimum sentencing. They are well aware that if they are a first time, first time offense for these drugs, a lot of times they won't have to do any time or the time will be minimal, if at all. And so they look at the states where they don't have to deal with a prison sentence. By my bill focusing exclusively on the individuals that are selling the bill, it doesn't deal with the individual user. If a person is using this drug and I have no reason why someone would have \$2,800 worth of the stuff minimum, but if they are using it and they're not selling it, it won't impact on them. It deals exclusively with the individuals selling and trafficking these types of drugs. It's a problem that we are going to have, but we can only...I think other cities and states show how severe the problem can become. Statistics that we have show that there has been an increase over the last couple of years. It has been a steady increase in the last three months, but it is nowhere near the astronomical numbers that we're seeing in other states, in other cities. I think we should do our part...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute.