

it's all over. This can't be the first line of defense. This does nothing and to the extent that we allow ourselves to continue with the illusion that there is a deterrent in going to jail for these people that will deter them from a life of selling drugs when they don't have another option that provides anything of the kind as far as money, prestige or the like, is really embracing an illusion and that's not why we're here. That's why I'm going to vote against this one. Frankly, I have to tell you on most of the other days in the Legislature I sit here and do the same thing. I pass these bills along that bump up the penalties, that move things up that category. Ultimately, by the way, by the time I leave here we'll probably have everything be a felony. At the rate we're going, don't you worry, and then we'll invent some new classifications of felonies like double X felonies, or something like that, that we really are serious about. Unfortunately, the latest round of sociological evidence tells us that criminals think differently than other people, that they find the life relatively attractive, that it winds up being a better option than the other options they oftentimes have because of their job skills and their background and the way the world sees them. And if that's the case, this kind of stuff isn't going to do it. The answer lies elsewhere and then it's time to come back to look at this notion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Elmer, Korshoj, Schmit, Hartnett, Moore and Chambers. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, I've enjoyed the debate today. I think the question of how to go about solving drug problems is not as easy as passing one piece of legislation, two pieces of legislation, even dealing with actual penalty provisions. The first line of defense, the first line of stopping drug abuse is education and I think that the governor and legislature back in the turn of the century were right in one regard and that is that education is crucial, understanding what drugs do to a person's body and the hazards that go with the use of cocaine and crack. I think the next line of defense is law enforcement and I think that there may be some disagreement as to whether or not the law enforcement in the City of Omaha is doing a good job or City of Lincoln or state patrol or any other city or county, sheriff's office around the state, if they're doing their job or if they could do a better job. I think that's... I guess that's a matter of