

not given them that help and those tools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Before acknowledging Senator Moore, the Chair is pleased to announce that we have some additional visitors in the north balcony, they are guests of Senator Peterson, 42 seventh and eighth graders from St. John's Lutheran in Battle Creek, Nebraska, with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and take a bow. Thank you, we're glad to have you with us. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Landis and Senator Chambers.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Bernard-Stevens, and Senator Chambers, and probably Senator Landis, after I get done, I don't know what he's going to say, but giving us comments on General File they're going to get up and say this bill doesn't solve the drug problem, it doesn't really do that much, so we shouldn't pass it. Now, Senator Chambers is trying to get us to believe that not only it does not solve anything, it makes matters worse. I simply cannot agree with that. And I'm not saying I agree with Senator Chambers, he's 100 percent correct when he said we, as politicians, and we, as policy-makers, do little things like this, make a mountain out of a mole hill and go back to our districts, or go to the press and say we're fighting drugs and we're doing something about it. He's probably right when he says we oversell a bill like this. But I don't know how he can argue that this bill is going to make the problem worse, that is where Senator Chambers and I disagree, because it's one of those things that it doesn't do that much but, as I've said on General File, we've been fighting a drug problem in this country probably for different sorts of drugs for years. This sort of mandatory minimum sentence, LB 592, does not make the problem worse, does not solve the problem, but does not make the problem worse. It does, indeed, as Senator Abboud mentioned, it...I hate to use the word but it sends the message that we're working on doing something and we'll continue to do something. Senator Bernard-Stevens is right, yes, we need to spend some more money on the enforcement side, too. But I don't know how on earth you can believe that, if you pass this bill, you're making the problem worse out there, because I do not believe you are not. I said before, if you fail to pass this bill, you're basically saying we're throwing up our arms and saying this problem is so big there is nothing we can do about it and LB 592 is so insignificant we shouldn't pass it. Well, I don't buy into