

we were having a real serious interconnected problem of those items, suicide, pregnancy and drug use among our teenagers and we were trying to figure out why is that happening. And from the research we did and what we could come back with is that there is...the interconnecting problem is lack of self-image, lack of confidence, lack of understanding of one's role in the larger world and that we needed to work with these kids, not just as teenagers but all through school as they were going to grade schools and junior high schools and trying to develop their social interaction skills and their understanding of themselves and their world around them. And we don't have all the solutions and there is no one solution for this problem but, certainly, the idea of trying to intercede with these children and set up a system throughout our schools that would start at an early age and through a comprehensive health program try to find some way to help their self-imaging, try and help them understand the world around them, trying to help them have self-confidence is the way we might build the citizens that can resist the temptations of drug use as a teenager and as an adult later in life. And it seems to me...it seems to me what we need to do is sit down and talk about LB 592 in this broader context. LB 592 is the end of the road solution to the problem but it's too late at that point. What we need to talk about is how we get to that point and how we can stop from reaching that point. And I think Senator Schimek has a bill in the concept that may help and there are other ideas out there. Now Senator Schmit talked about the punishment role to stopping this sort of activity that...as with speeding, that if we get out there and punish and catch these people that are speeding and give them a ticket that they will stop speeding. I look at it a different way. It's sort of a situation when you have children and all of you probably have had experience with children, one route to dealing with children that are misbehaving is you punish them, you spank them, you put them in a room, time out. Different approaches have been used in that regard. Another approach is to sit down and talk to them and ask them, why are you doing this? What is the problem? Why is this happening? Sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't but it certainly seems to me, as we have sat down and talked to people on this problem that we have identified at least one sore point, one problem point and if we can begin to address it, hopefully, we can save these young people from ever reaching the point that we need to invoke the sort of penalties under this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.