

going to hold water to some degree if you transfer them to Nebraska. You know the numbers are high. Among teen fathers, only 50 percent will graduate from high school. Teen marriages resulting from a pregnancy are two or three times more likely to end in divorce than are marriages among older couples. And without education, without confidence in their abilities to become self-sufficient, these young people enter into a downward spiral of poverty and lowered self-esteem. Children of teen parents are less likely to attend preschool, less prepared for school as a result, and more likely to drop out with deficient skills which prevent them from competing in the labor market. The cycle continues, leaving these young people severely, economically and educationally disadvantaged. The cost to society is very great, and this is one of the problems that needs to be addressed by us as a society. If you will look at the statements that I passed out to you earlier, regarding the dropouts, the pregnant female dropouts, a lot of people might be wondering how many teenagers are we talking about when we talk about preventing dropouts. Senator Bernard-Stevens started to go into these statistics. It's difficult to tell because when teenagers dropout of school there are about 16 different reasons listed on the forms.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And the superintendents fill them out, not the students themselves, so it's often difficult. The general dislike of school is the first reason, other is the second reason, parental influence is the third reason. But female, pregnant dropouts could be amongst all those other categories, too. So when it says that out of that 1,645 total many of those were also pregnant. If you look at the Department of Health figures, down below, that gives you statistics for females who are 21-years of age or younger with less than a 12th grade education. In 1987 that was 1,475. And, finally, the last statistics, and Senator Morrissey asked me about this, are the Department of Health statistics about the number of teen births...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and what their grade level is. And I want to clarify, that is their educational level, not their actual grade level or where they would be according to their age in