

spouse, where they lose control, if we can stop that from ever happening, that is really the best course of action. I think after it occurs, unfortunately, when it does we need to have workers there to intervene to deal with the problem, to place children in protective care and to stop the abuse from continuing and I think this Legislature recognizes that and LB 720 that we advanced on Monday will help us deal with that. But it would be nice if we didn't have the problem in the first place. That's really what we're talking about here. Let's not have these sort of problems in the first place; let's not have the child abuse; let's not have the family disruption; let's not have the family violence that we're seeing in Nebraska today. We don't have any reason to tolerate four to 5,000 kids being abused every year. That is simply intolerable. How do we stop it? We've got to help these families. I don't think any parent in their right mind, and there are a lot of them out there maybe that are not in their right mind, wants to hurt their child. Pressures build, financial problems, other things build and they don't know how to cope and this sort of program, these family preservation teams, these family advocates out there through this sort of an initiative under LB 662 can intervene and help the situation, help people cope. Now getting back to the concepts involved here with 662, the family preservation teams that were established four or five years ago or more were established in six different cities. These family preservation teams have been a big success. Beatrice is one location of those and that family preservation team ended up in the establishment of that Family Resource Center that Senator Byars was talking about in Beatrice. We toured that as a Health and Human Services Committee and we found that it was a very successful effort to try and join force, to join together to intervene on behalf of families in need and that sort of experience and the one in Lincoln where we have a family preservation team that has been very successful as well should be repeated across the state. Every area of the state should be able to have this sort of resource, not just the few that now have it, but under 662 we could expand access to family preservation teams, access to family resources that a few of us are already having in our cities. These sort of efforts, I think, joining forces, having state agencies work together, having state and local agencies working together because there are many involved in this topic, and the private sector, you have churches involved and other types of support groups out there, they are all out there trying to do what they can to help families help children and if we can keep them in touch working