

other states, that a comprehensive health education can make a difference. In other words, we can't just teach children to say no to drugs. We can't just teach children to say no to alcohol. We can't just teach children abstinence about pregnancies. What we need to do is to teach the total health picture so that we will have healthier children and we need to build into this comprehensive health education a mechanism by which we can also help the individual child's self-esteem and growth patterns so that they will want to say no to drugs and all the other kinds of bad habits that we would like them to say no to. If you will look...I think you got a sheet, I'm not sure, about the comprehensive health education implementation plan. And this gives you a little bit of idea about how the health education bill would be implemented. First of all, let me reiterate that there is already in place a mandated health education plan in Nebraska and many districts have already implemented comprehensive health education programs. The State Department of Education tells me that there is a big demand for the curriculum and the kind of instruction that schools can use to implement this plan. What the plan would do would be to provide school districts with a check list in order that they might evaluate their current status on health education. It would also emphasize that the Nebraska Department of Education personnel is willing to help with any curriculum writing or revision process. And I might add that it is still up to the local school district to decide exactly how they want to implement this, so there would be no absolute as far as a written curriculum would be concerned. They have already convened a curriculum writing committee and have worked on a curriculum for our purposes. There would also be a review committee of constituents and the interested parties. And I might add that the Department of Education wants to bring in all points of view to this curriculum review and implementation process so that you have some of the concerns that this kind of legislation has raised in the past, so that you're able to address these concerns and bring in more of a community point of view. Five to seven staff development workshops would be...would be held and representatives of local school districts would be invited to an annual Good Life Conference which would reenforce and promote the concept. And then, finally, it would initiate an evaluation review process to determine that the teaching of comprehensive health education does make a difference in use knowledge skills and resultant behavior concerning healthy lifestyles. With that, I would conclude my initial remarks and say that I would be happy to answer any