

undetected by even their family members and that if we can early on have in place a support mechanism in our school system to help early on spotting these problems and dealing with these problems instead of ignoring them, allowing them to get worse and continue and fester and grow to a point where we have the sort of disasters that we know have existed in this state in years past. If we can do something early on, we can stop, in some cases, at least, these problems from ever developing to a point where we have the pregnancies and the suicides and the drugs that we're all concerned about with our young people. So I think, clearly, the intent here is to follow up on health education mandates we already have in place. We have required our schools to have health education but we haven't been real aggressive on what the focus was, on making sure that that health education was comprehensive and trying to make sure that the sort of things I just mentioned would be addressed by our schools. This bill takes the next step beyond where we're at today and addresses this very important issue. So I see the bill as an important bill. I see the bill as a good bill and I would encourage your support for it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, it would be difficult for anyone to come to this microphone and say, I'm against this bill, because, as Senator Schimek so ably stated and Senator Withem ahead of her, the whole concept of the bill is to start early so our little ones, and as they grow up they understand what health is all about, and that health problems are related to almost everything you do in your life, I guess, would be everything. I have had some concerns about this bill simply because some of my constituents have concerns and it isn't just the people who testified against the bill. I want to assure Senator Schimek of that and Senator Withem. Others have a concern about how some of these things on the list would be brought to the students and the one in particular is on death and dying. So, as soon as I say a couple of things, I will ask Senator Schimek a couple of questions or Senator Withem, either one can answer the questions probably. When you start talking about death and dying, you definitely are getting into a philosophical and moral area and there are all kinds of beliefs, feelings, concerns about how we die, where we die, where we go when we die, and I understand that a lot of children...every...children always have questions about this