

ways that we could be more clear probably in that.

SENATOR SMITH: I would appreciate that, if it could be made more clearly defined as far as oversight and, you know, as far as the development of the curriculum and it's not just left to the discretion of any individual teacher who may not be competent in this area and create some new problems. And then the other thing that I would say is that I do join Senator Haberman, to a degree, in his concern about mandating, that this is construed as mandating another new layer of education, that instead what we might be doing is remapping the curriculum in the area of health education...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...and doing some of the things to meet the new needs that we now see evidenced, you know, to meet the future needs of our children in Nebraska so that it's not construed as saying, oh yeah, they told us we have to have another new course and so we have to put in place now a teacher to handle this issue. One of the things that I'm real concerned about that we have seen in departments, you know, in all areas, is that we end up with new ideas all the time but we never end up removing anything that's outdated or outmoded in the past so that we end up having new costs. And, you know, for instance, in the mental retardation programs, I was told by some staff recently that some of the things that they have been doing are not working anymore. Now I have a request that came to me from someone saying they had this great idea about how we address these issues, give us some new money. So what I'm saying is what we need to do maybe is look at the curriculum, revamp the educational curriculum at that level and not replace...or add this as another layer, because teachers are almost at the point where they can't add any more time in their day and neither can students.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator Smith, and I probably didn't respond as fully as I should have to Senator Haberman, but part of the...part of this program would allow the State Department of Education to work with the schools in determining and doing a needs assessment and working with the schools that did not or could not hire more teachers to do this so that the science instructor would perhaps be able to work some of this into their curriculum. We're not necessarily talking adding layers, we are perhaps talking about incorporating some of this into existing