

to happen. And where we have these type school-based health clinics, we have actually given sex education courses where wherever they have existed there has been an increase in teen pregnancy rates and I still think that these are responsibilities that belong in the family, that mom and dad should take care of that and it shouldn't be in the hands of educators, especially when the educators need to learn so much about education yet. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, I have not spoken on the issue other than to introduce the committee amendments. This is a troubling type of bill, to me, because of the type of emotions that it brings out and I think it demonstrates...it may not be the inability of the school system or the inability of our children to deal with these issues, it demonstrates the inability of a group of 49 adults that are elected to the Nebraska Legislature to deal with these types of issues. We are not creating anything new with this bill. We are simply using some better language to define what it is that we expect our students to learn. We have a comprehensive health education program in our statutes today. That's existing language. All this does is spell out in more modernistic language what it is we expect that curriculum to cover. We are not mandating any new programs, already school districts are mandated to have comprehensive health education. If you're concerned about the school's ability to handle that, you probably ought to be coming in with legislation to repeal the whole language here. But we already have that. We already have comprehensive health education as one of the very few state mandated programs that exist within our statutes. All this really does is spell out what it is that we need to include within those particular programs. It's an update of the language. It's not something new. I had my light on before Senator Dierks spoke and wasn't going to mention this, but, beings he did, I think I need to. Senator Dierks, I think it's irresponsible to talk about school-based health clinics in here. There's absolutely nothing in here that talks about the treatment of any sorts of medical problems that young people have. That's what a school-based health clinic does. It provides health services. This doesn't talk about health services at all, one iota. It's irresponsible to be raising those kind of specters when we discuss this legislation. This