

to address the Head Start program and their kick-off for their celebration of their 25th anniversary. There were several hundred individuals at this ceremony, and it was quite a moving presentation. A slide show was prepared, different materials were prepared and I was very impressed by the work of the Head Start program. And so I left there and came back and discussed with Senator Withem and Senator Bernard-Stevens, who I also know have an interest in this, and we have co-sponsored this resolution. It merely calls to attention of Nebraskans the importance of Head Start and the fact that for 25 years now they've been in operation providing the following programs, Head Start was essentially targeted to low income children, or in some cases, particular cases, handicapped children that are at risk. Those children are then given the opportunity to participate in Head Start, which is in essence a preschool education program, given a head start on their educational needs, and there they work with teachers, and there is a low teacher-student ratio, and teachers with particular training in child development who work and assist these at-risk children and help them achieve their potential. As part of this program, Head Start also provides health care for these low income families, allowing them opportunities to get comprehensive health care, which they would not otherwise be able to afford. Also parents are very much involved in the program, recognizing that any success the program has is based in having the parents and the family being supportive and able to carry through and help in every way possible with the child. In addition, the social services available to children are referred to them, and they are given the opportunity to get assistance where they qualify. There are something like 2,500 children in Nebraska served by Head Start currently, on a year-to-year basis. In Lincoln, over the course of the 25 years, something like 5,000 children have been served by this program. I've passed out some articles that deal with this. A couple of them deal with the fact that President Bush is very supportive of the Head Start program, calling for, in his campaign, for more money in their budget and following up on that with putting more money in the budget for Head Start. In addition, there is an article by Don Walton in the Star about the personal impacts of Head Start. The thing I'd want to leave with you, if anything, is a little more understanding of what Head Start is, but also to identify for you the fact of what a tremendous success it's been, that a study was done on this program, now 25 years in existence. It has found that for every dollar we invested in Head Start we had a return of six dollars in various factors and improvements in