

LB 742 as my priority bill because I think it is a good solid foundation to continue our war on drugs. According to one study, US teenagers still believe that the drug problem is the greatest danger facing their country and, indeed, illicit drug use is not a victimless crime and it's particularly a vicious crime when promoted to children. Today drug labs are generating all new, astonishingly potent drugs such as Ice, a deadly, extremely addictive smokeable form of speed with which to flood our streets and infiltrate our schools. The war on drugs can be won and, indeed, we are seeing some reduction in that war, in the effects of that war. Thank you. Robert DuPont, former head of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the United States, has said, virtually all drugs are first used between the ages of 12 and 20, and the predominant problem is between the ages of 12 and 16. The people most likely to use drugs in the western society and to peddle drugs are the 18 to 25-year-olds. Doctor DuPont and others point out if a person reaches age 20 and doesn't use drugs, and that includes alcohol, he or she probably won't in their lifetime. Prevent drug use early and you'll stand a good chance of preventing it for life. With that in mind, we have introduced this bill to make it a crime to distribute drugs to minors an even more serious offense. It's impossible to teach against drug use and we have many good programs in our schools such as the DARE program which law enforcement is using in schools across the state, but it's impossible to teach against drug use when drugs are rampant in the schools. A recent survey indicated that 57 percent of callers to a cocaine hot line had bought their drugs in school and an 1985 survey indicated that a third of marijuana using high school seniors had smoked that drug in school. This fatally undermines the integrity of any drug education strategy. But we are making progress and recent statistics indicate a changing attitude toward drug use among America's youth. From '85 to '88, the number of high school seniors who saw great risk in the regular use of marijuana, cocaine and heroin rose by about 10 percent and the number of high school seniors currently using any illicit drug has dropped from just under 30 percent to 21.3 percent. The programs that are fueling these minor successes must be encouraged and rewarded and part of that is the approach from drug education, drug prevention, drug intervention and drug enforcement. This is but one of the facets of that war. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. I will now recognize Senator Smith for a point of personal privilege.