

action, a program aimed at showing them that they have value and worth in the eyes of those who are their elected representatives, that small pittance is to be wiped out, and the good that can come from it is not to occur. I have a particular interest in the program, Senator Nelson, as I said because I participate, and let me show you, share with you a letter that a teacher wrote to me. "First, I want to thank you for taking the time to address the Leadership Conference," the one we are talking about, "held this August, and to let you know your message made an impression on at least one young lady. We have a foster daughter who was in attendance. We have been telling her for the past two years, it is not in her best interest to be sexually active, but somehow hearing it from an influential male in a straightforward manner really helped plant the message more firmly in her mind. Knowing the impact you had on her, I would like you to consider speaking to may Teen Living Classes." And she mentions how it is a diverse group of young people who need to hear this message. Many on this floor and throughout this state have no idea of the things that I talk to young people about, or the impact that my words have on young people. This is one of those areas where the expenditure is so small, the return can become so great, that I think we ought to do it. Not only is a mind a terrible thing to lose, but the self-esteem of our young people is also a terrible thing to lose. The enthusiasm of those young people, the interaction between kids from rural areas, urban areas, different religious and ethnic and racial backgrounds was something that the members of this body need to behold. I've shared with you racist editorials written by editors in papers coming from the area that would be closer to where Senator Nelson comes from than I do, and they write this trash because they think it is all right, and the people out there accept it. They feel they are reflecting the attitudes of the people in outstate Nebraska. We cannot salvage the old heads, but if there is an opportunity for these young people to talk to each other, to get to know each other in a context other than one of controversy and adversarialness, there is the possibility that communication will be established, that we can have a better set of circumstances when they become adults and take over this state than currently exists. Senator Nelson, I want all children to get the best possible education possible, and that goes for more than just what happens in the classroom, so that when those children who are young now will have a much better, more informed group of people with which to work than I have. If the people that I must deal with now had had this opportunity to mix and mingle and get to know each