

January 12, 1995

violent criminals and hard-core drug dealers. Second, we will provide more tools to law enforcement, such as equipment grants and laboratory space for DNA testing. We'll address the need for intervention in part by allocating an additional \$3 million to the Office of Juvenile Services for treatment and support of young people. The largest recent increase in crime is by and against young people. This is a priority of my agenda because we must not allow our youth to be trapped in a cycle of criminal behavior. Finally, in the area of criminal detention, I propose we make it more difficult to parole violent offenders. In addition, we will provide funding for more prison guards and a boot camp. We will emphasize positive time and require inmates to earn time off for sentences, rather than having it handed to them for merely behaving. The people of Nebraska will not allow crime to go unchecked in our state. In addition to feeling safe, the citizens of Nebraska deserve to be able to provide for themselves. That's why I'm asking for a renewed commitment in the area of welfare reform. We will expand the child care tax credit to reward middle and low income parents who work. We will strengthen enforcement of child support payments, in part, with suspension and revocation of drivers' and professional licenses. We must continue to seek flexibility in the form of waivers from the federal government. We must revise conflicting statutes to move us beyond the change implemented last year. We must have practical and appropriate rules and regulations and pass enabling legislation that will give Nebraskans a real opportunity to help themselves to make their dreams into reality. In addition to feeling safe and being able to provide for themselves, the citizens of Nebraska deserve to be healthy. We must be healthy to be productive and we must be productive to be prosperous. Even though we've come far in providing more health care options, some Nebraskans may still be unable to get health care. We will work this year to make health care more accessible by making government health care programs more efficient. Through the Nebraska health care policy project chaired by Lieutenant Governor Robak, we will work to realign state health and human service agencies to make them more efficient and more responsive. We will achieve some flexibility in the state budget through changes in Medicaid managed care, then we will review and evaluate existing programs to make sure they're as efficient and as responsive as possible. This includes a review of all rural health loan programs. I want to help Nebraskans get better health care. I will ask for enhancement for telemedicine program and the Rural Health Education Network at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.