

addictive than the powder cocaine, and it was with that that the laws addressed the crack cocaine because of the addictiveness of that substance. Also it was much cheaper than the powder cocaine, and so that's the reason, and because it was cheap, it was then very attractive to those who had less money, and they could buy the crack cheaper than they could buy the powder. So that's the reason that they attacked then the powder cocaine. Certainly, the two need to be on the same level. What the amounts are can be debated. I've served for several years on the PRIDE Omaha, which is Parent Resources and Drug Education. I've also gone through the family treatment center for drugs and alcohol, and what this does to people's lives is very concerning. I would ask that you, in this case, I believe I cannot with Senator Chambers and I would ask that you not advance his amendment, but that we'd go back to the committee amendment. Now if you want to deal with the amounts, I think that can be done, but, still, it is a serious offense. I think the penalties need to be serious also. Certainly, Senator Pedersen, who has also dealt with drugs and with alcohol and with addiction, this is not something that we want to take lightly, and so I would maintain that the penalties need to be severe, enough to certainly keep this away from the young people of this country. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Crosby, Will, and Chambers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I will waive.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Beutler waives. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Mr. President, I don't approve of giving too much time to Senator Chambers, but I will give him time, Senator.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Jensen a question because he said he worked with this group in Omaha, is it called PRIDE Omaha, Senator Jensen? And you said they deal with people who have drug problems and so forth.

SENATOR JENSEN: (Mike off, inaudible answer) ... Senator