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ice it has to have at least 80 percent purity. Immediately after meth is taken, the user experiences a rush. It stimulates the central nervous system with the effects lasting from 4 to 24 hours. It produces euphoria, increased alertness, paranoia, decreased appetite, and increased physical activity. It does have extreme adverse effects. These are irritability, extreme nervousness, insomnia, confusion, and so on. Meth literally changes the brain in fundamental and long-lasting ways. It kills by causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke, and it induces extreme acute psychiatric and psychological symptoms that may lead to suicide or murder. Three Nebraska teenagers have died as a result of meth use in the last two years. The effects of meth last as much as ten times longer than a cocaine high because the body metabolizes it more slowly. A binge can last up to a week, while cocaine binges rarely continue for more than 72 hours. Meth users, however, have severe disturbance of mood and thought and this can sometimes go on for days or weeks. Meth is extremely addictive and the person can be hooked the first time they use it. Meth users are the hardest of all users to treat because they can go through the withdrawal quickly but then they hit what is called the wall and that takes between six and eight months to come over. A quarter of a gram to a gram is typical of daily use. Now a quarter-gram can cost around \$35. A gram packet is about one inch square. Meth is typically 80 to 90 percent pure, which means that it has not been stepped on with other additives to get more product. There are 28 grams in an ounce, and 1 ounce then for a person who uses an ounce (sic) a day would last typically 28 days. One ounce in a sandwich bag would be about an inch and a half of powder and if you are a higher user...meth user you would use up to 3 grams a day, so 1 ounce would last 9 days, and the high could last between 24 to 26 hours. Meth abuse is a problem. In December of 1996, the Office of the National Drug Control Policy designated Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota as the Midwest high intensity drug trafficking area, and specific designated counties in Nebraska are Dakota, Dawson, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Scotts Bluff. Enhanced penalties are obviously only one part of the way to deal, but they are a very first important step. And so I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brashear.