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we have done internally. I'm not saying we can't learn from...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HOWARD: ...from...I'm sorry...from private providers. I'm saying let's work together. Thank you.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. Thank you, Senator Howard. I think that all of us are very aware of the abuse situations that have occurred in the past and the deaths that have occurred. So I want to thank Senator Howard for bringing this bill because I believe that education is important in this area and that we all need to work together in what we can do to protect children. So thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Howard and others.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just want to speak to one area of what Senator Howard has brought, and I'm really happy that she's working on these issues and will have many years to continue work on these issues, and that has to do with the home visitation program and the fact that that will be in statute as one of the areas of the work of the Department of Health and Human Services. This has been an area, at least in my short time in political life here, and it comes...came probably to this issue a little bit in the early 1990s, when we've had so many starts and stops on the home visitation issue. And I think that's been very, very disappointing. I know a previous Health and Human Services director, when Mary Harvey was director, it was called Healthy Beginnings. It was an initiative of the Nelson administration and headed by Diane Nelson to try to get universal home visitation throughout the state. And we're always thwarted by the fact that we know it's a good thing, we know it gets results, but we don't fund it. And the other issue that comes to play is that you have to care and feed these kinds of programs that you have with good training, with good evaluation, to make sure what you're providing in information for the people who are doing this is absolutely critical to the very best outcomes. Some of the most effective home visitation programs