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clarify that it is my priority bill, but it is Senator Raikes' bill to begin with. I have been somewhat familiar with the grant program that we have in Nebraska, and I believe, from talking with some of the people involved, that it's been a very successful program. It is for children who are at risk. And I just distributed on the floor a few minutes ago what the research shows about early childhood education and I just want to highlight about three or four of those points. Number one on the sheet talks about the fact that early childhood education helps children have greater school readiness, and numerous studies have shown this. A study by the University of North Carolina shows that children who enter kindergarten from quality prekindergarten exposure have better reading, language, and social skills than those who lack this preparation. Secondly, early childhood education improves scores on primary grade testing. At least five studies have shown statistically significant positive effects of that early childhood education on achievement tests. Third, the early childhood education reduces grade retention and the need for special education, and I think that's a very important point to make because we know how expensive special education has become over the years and how much the number of students entered into that special education program has grown. So hopefully some of this would reverse that trend, which I think is why it's important to speak of the special education funds and the early childhood education funds together. And the fourth thing I just want to mention to you on this sheet is that long-term studies in five school systems--Louisville; Rome, Georgia; Chicago; Ypsilanti; and Baltimore--show a large positive effect on the high school graduation rates. That's maybe a little bit more long term. But as you read down the sheet, you'll see that's even true for college, it's true for work. But the immediate, immediate effects are that you have kids that are more ready to go to school, you have kids that do better once they get to school, and you do reduce the number of children having to repeat grades or having to be in special education programs. So I think this...the money that's been used so far has been used wisely, but there is a greater need for it, and I don't want to go into too much detail because some of that will be talked about when the bill actually comes on the floor. I'd encourage the adoption of the Raikes amendment. Thank you.