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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Further discussion on the Raikes amendment? Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, actually the early childhood pilot projects have been in existence since about 1988 or '89, and the first four of the projects were...one was a joint project between Omaha Public Schools and Head Start in Omaha, one was a preschool program in Falls City, one was a parent education program in Bellevue, and the fourth, and the one that I'm going to speak the most about...and this was in my before I was a state senator life that I was a part of establishing these programs. And I'm very supportive of adding money back because we sort of, during the bad years, had been very tight on funding for these programs, and so now if we can go back to providing a little bit of funding. The programs have to be collaborative within the community and there are all kinds of things that they have to accomplish, but they can look very different from one community to the next. The project that I'm going to talk about was in Gering-Scottsbluff, and it was a project for...to provide high quality, early care for the children of young mothers, young teenage mothers, so that they could stay in high school. Because young women who get...and this is one of the more significant programs that I can point to in terms of really supporting young women who have children. The statistics are quite positive for young women if they...who...even young women who get pregnant, if they stay in traditional high school and get a traditional high school degree, and if they have some supportive services for their children. And so Scottsbluff has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state, higher than even pockets within Omaha and Lincoln, and the program was extremely successful. In the first four years during which longitudinal studies were conducted of the participants, there was not one of the participants in the program, one of the mother participants in the program, that had a subsequent unplanned pregnancy. Several of the girls ended up getting married to the fathers of their children, but all of them felt that the experiences that they had as a result of the program, which kept them in traditional high school but it had part of their curriculum be an interactive piece with their little children so that they could learn good parenting skills