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I think that most of the research will prove that it is beneficial, if the programs are good, if they are balanced academically and also behavioral. And I think that parents still have a choice whether they wish to send their children to kindergarten, but particularly for those high-needs students, offering the all-day kindergarten is really a step forward and something I believe that we should all support, particularly when it does not take effect until 2009-10, and schools have an opportunity to prepare for that time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Howard, committee amendments.

SENATOR HOWARD: I'd like to reflect for a moment on the information that Senator Redfield provided and note that that information is quite dated. I believe the studies that she was quoting are at least 10, and some 15, years old. And I do have a study that was completed in...more recently in this decade, in 2001, by the Kansas State Department of Education, and if I could read this to you. Findings from all three studies indicate that full-day kindergarten programs are appropriate for kindergarten age children to provide cognitive, social, physical, and emotional benefits. Children in the full-day programs studied spent more time in small groups and in child-to-child social interactions. Full-day students initiated more activities, received more one-to-one instruction, and spent less time in teacher-directed groups. Additional class time was used to teach social skills, reinforce concepts taught earlier in the day, allowed students more free play time. A smaller percentage of time was spent in transitions. Full-day teachers spent more time helping children complete challenging tasks, developing relationships, resolving conflicts, and understanding other points of view. And here's an answer to one of the questions that was presented earlier. This study...this information found no evidence of any detrimental effects of developmentally appropriate full-day kindergarten. I would suggest to you that it is time we move into the twentieth century and look at what will offer the most to our children. Nebraska children need to be competitive with all children in the world. I'm not advocating a strict regimen. I am...quite frankly, I believe our Department of Education knows what issues