

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'm curious why kids come down...

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Higgins, I'd be very happy to. These young high school students are members of an organization at Papillion High School known as PANDA, Papillion Against Narcotics, Drugs and Alcohol. They have been very active in their school and in their community educating young people, educating the community on the dangers of drug abuse. They feel that the...to paraphrase some of their concerns, they feel that the dealing of the drug look-alikes is a hand-in-hand activity with the dealing of the dangerous narcotics. One of these students that testified, as a matter of fact, testified on some of his experiences a few years ago in dealing drugs and talking about his use of the look-alikes, his use of the regular drugs, and they felt that there needed to be an effective control on both the look-alikes and the controlled substances.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Let me ask you a question then. Did they say, in this bill we're dealing with look-alikes, did they say or does anybody know, do the look-alikes actually do physical or mental harm to children or are they just ripping them off selling them to them as opposed to real drugs that would do harm?

SENATOR WITHEM: Is that a question to me?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I can't comment on what the students thought about this, but I did visit with a gentleman by the name of Richard Larson who is very knowledgeable in this area who told me that is a common misconception that we all have in the Legislature, that we're talking about sugar pills. These substances, many of them, high doses of caffeine, high doses of other substances can, in and of themselves, cause harm. They just are not in the controlled substance legislation. He indicated to me that he felt that that was a misconception that too many of us dwell under here in the Legislature.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers, would you yield to a question, please?