

Today's increased mobility and high divorce rates, separations, and family abuse problems have tended to separate millions of children from relatives of an older generation who have traditionally served as the emotional buffer between generations, as well as custodians of family history and culture." Arthur Kornhaber, a psychiatrist who works in the Foundation for Grandparenting, has done much research in this field, and he concludes also that the "grandparent-child bond is second only to that of the parent-child bond. They need to be together to provide a special dimension to the family, a deep sense of stability in belonging, and appreciation of values, an experienced source for answers about family backgrounds, traditions, and our country. The need for this sustained, personal attachment and communication between our generations has been recognized, and the programs of many organizations testified to this strengthening of this important fabric of our families." Witness, as I mentioned before, our own Silver-Haired Legislature's concern. There is concern in the programs developed by the Girl Scouts and the Future Homemakers of America which try to bring young and old together, other state and local programs pairing students with mentors for emotional and creative support, grandparenting conferences to explore how more can be done by helping our young people in solving problems ranging from drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, child abuse, and poor performance in schools. In Washington state there is even a program which provides for placing juvenile offenders with older people in community service as an alternative to prison. I think against this background of great interest and great importance I would urge the advancement of LB 105. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Vickers is next, but may I please introduce some guests, in the north balcony, of Senator Schmit. There are 40 eighth graders from St. Mary's School in David City accompanied by their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Vickers, then Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, to stand to rise to oppose this bill, after Senator Johnson's speech, is almost like standing up and saying you are opposed to apple pie and motherhood, but I'm going to have to do it anyhow. I am a grandfather myself. I understand the bond between grandparents and grandchildren that Senator Johnson was just