

permeating young people. It is a disease. It's a cancer that is beginning to grow. And what they learn and what habits they get into in this time period will many times dictate how they're going to be as adults. And, yes, it's a very fine line, as Senator Kristensen and Senator Bohlke have both said, about are we just going to put them in a drug education program or drug treatment. And I would agree with Senator Kristensen that the education program would, in most cases, be a farce, most kids know better. That's why I ruled that out. We have to go to treatment. But I also understand, from talking to the professionals out there on this particular matter, that these are done case-by-case basis. It's not as if they have to, for 24 hours a day for 3 months, be in an institution. That may not be in the best interests of that person. Certainly, the education is going to play a major role. Drug treatment applies a lot of different things to the professionals on how they treat individual people. And so I...I don't envision, nor from people I've talked to, would the education be hurt, because those can be done on a case-by-case basis. I will say to the body that the young people desperately need help in working out their difficulties on their addiction to the drug of choice, that would be alcohol.

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And the treatment process would far...for the far majority of people, be their salvation. And, yes, we might overkill on some. But I'd rather overkill on some rather than letting the entire majority by without any treatment, and we wait until they're over 21 before we take their license away for 15 years, and we've never ever given them a chance at treatment. I don't mind people being punished, and I don't mind us putting regulations to punish. But I do think that we need to give them a chance to make the decision of, I've had the treatment, I understand, and I still choose to do drugs or alcohol, then we can slo...throw the book at them. But we need to give them that chance. And I think it's very important that we give them this first step. Senator Bohlke, thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Abboud, Senator Abboud. Apparently Senator Abboud has left. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next followed by Senator Kristensen. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I would like to go on and just