DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 638 RC 021 498

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| TITLE | The Drug Threat to Teens in Our Rural Communities. Hearing before the Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, House of Representatives, One Hundred Fifth Congress, First Session (DeKalb, IL, July 7, 1997). |
| INSTITUTION | Congress of the U.S., Washington, DC. House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. |
| ISBN | ISBN-0-16-056213-9 |
| PUB DATE | 1998-00-00 |
| NOTE | 94p.; Contains photographs and several pages of light or broken type that will not reproduce adequately. Serial No. 105-74. |
| AVAILABLE FROM | U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office, Washington, DC 20402. |
| PUB TYPE | Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090) |
| EDRS PRICE | MF01/PC04 Plus Postage. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Adolescents; Change Strategies; College Students; Community Action; Crime; *Drug Abuse; Government Role; Hearings; High School Students; High Schools; *Illegal Drug Use; Juvenile Gangs; *Prevention; Rural Areas; *Rural Youth; School Role; Youth Problems |
| IDENTIFIERS | Congress 105th |

ABSTRACT

A House subcommittee hearing held in DeKalb, Illinois, received testimony on drug abuse problems among young people in small towns and rural areas. Personal experiences of drugs and their effects on young people were described in statements from the mother of a victim of drug-related violence, a former drug dealer, a former drug user and gang member, and a teenager who had never used drugs. Representatives of substance abuse prevention programs, law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies discussed federal, state, and community responsibilities regarding drug abuse prevention; the need to change societal norms related to drugs, alcohol, and violence; goals and activities of the DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment; the increased potency of drugs in the past decade; efforts to deter the international drug trade; prevention strategies in DeKalb schools; health promotion strategies related to substance abuse prevention at colleges; drug use in rural DeKalb County and its relationship to crime; the need to disseminate successful prevention strategies; the effectiveness of community-wide cooperation; and the importance of parents acting as positive role models. A local citizen cited the many failures of the 40-year "war on drugs" and suggested some potential benefits of legalization. (SV)

# THE DRUG THREAT TO TEENS IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

## HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JULY 7, 1997

## Serial No. 105–74

Printed for the use of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
46–269 CC WASHINGTON : 1998

For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office
Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office, Washington, DC 20402
ISBN 0-16-056213-9

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# THE DRUG THREAT TO TEENS IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1997

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT,
*DeKalb, IL.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 8:32 a.m., in Holmes Student Center, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, Hon. J. Dennis Hastert (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representative Hastert.

Also present: Representative Manzullo.

Staff present: Robert Charles, staff director and chief counsel; and Sean Littlefield, professional staff member.

Mr. HASTERT. Good morning. I want to bid everybody a good morning and certainly, first of all, the first order of business, I want to thank the president of Northern Illinois University, John La Tourette, who is in the doorway, for providing this facility and this venue for our hearing. It is such a beautiful day and a nice view, and I hope everybody can concentrate on the hearing before us.

So, John, thank you very much for your hospitality here at the university.

I also would like to recognize State Senator Brad Bruzynski. Brad is in the audience.

Thank you, Brad, for being here.

Also the sheriff of DeKalb County, who certainly has been one of our key allies in this fight against drugs, Sheriff Roger Scott.

Roger, you are here someplace too. Thanks for being with us.

The Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice will now come to order. With me I have Congressman Don Manzullo, who represents the district to the north. It goes all the way from the Mississippi River to the Lake County side of McHenry County.

Is that right, Don?

And certainly it was Don's request—a couple of months ago, he said, you know, in my district, the gangs and drug problems are moving out from the city of Chicago into the suburbs and certainly into McHenry County; and he said, you know, I need to do hearings back home to see what people are thinking, see what needs to be done. And I said, Don, I have been thinking about doing the same thing.

So we teamed up today to do this hearing both here in DeKalb County, and we will be traveling later this afternoon to McHenry County for a similar hearing. Today we will examine the dire threat of drugs to our kids in rural communities and in suburbs.

When residents of rural areas think of drugs and teens, often the first thing that comes to their mind is kids in impoverished urban areas being victimized by crack dealers and gangs. The rural areas in small towns, DeKalb, Kendall, and Lee Counties, generally are not thought of as places where drug abuse is a problem.

Unfortunately, times have changed and this image is simply no longer true. It is a sad fact, but a harbinger of our times that no young person in any community in America is out of the reach of cocaine, heroin, LSD or methamphetamines, let alone marijuana; nor is any community immune from the drug violence and street gangs and the trafficking which accompany the arrivals of these poisons in our midst.

The citizens in DeKalb and our surrounding areas have been shocked in recent years as we continuously see the encroachment of drugs, drug-related violence and street gangs. No longer are we insulated from the problems that used to be confined to big cities, such as Chicago or Rockford. One need only read the recent series of the chronicled articles on drug use among our teens here in DeKalb and the DeKalb High School to understand the magnitude of the problem we are all confronting. As a parent certainly and a former high school teacher myself of 16 years, I feel this problem is a devastating one and requires effort by all of us to reverse.

A few examples are illustrative. The results of the I–Say study on drug use, published on May 18, 1997, is a case in point. The results are an alarming 40 percent of high school students polled say they have used marijuana. That is nearly half of the kids in our schools; 14 percent said they have used LSD, 6 percent report using inhalants and 5 percent have tried cocaine. That is 1 in every 20 kids.

The saddest part is that these aren't just statistics, they are not just numbers, these are our kids right here in our communities. We must do a better job of educating them about the dangers of these drugs and their use, and protecting them from those who traffic in these poisons.

And perhaps the most damning statement was made by a junior honor student. This student commented that while the drug users in school use drugs every day there are some responsible people who care about their future and use drugs only on a weekend basis. This kind of sentiment of equating responsibility in caring about one's future with drug use, coming from an honors student, paints a frightening picture of where we are as a society and where we are headed.

We must wake up to our collective responsibility, meeting this collective threat, and become serious about fighting drugs. I think we will find that our panelists today, the people who are going to come before us, have insight; some of them have the experience of having their own practical experience in this type of situation and some have been parents and some have been in these communities fighting this problem for a long, long time. So I am going to ask my colleague from the northern District here, the congressional dis-

trict which lies right over the DeKalb County line, if he would like to make any opening statements.

Mr. MANZULLO. Thank you very much. It is a real pleasure to be here this morning.

I practiced law in Oregon, IL, a town of 3,500 people, from 1970 until I was elected to Congress in 1992, and handled hundreds of juvenile cases. Many of those were kids who got hung up with drugs, so this area of drugs is not new to me.

What is new about this area to me, my 13-year-old son, Neal, is here today, so I have a very selfish motive and wanted to make sure my children—13, 11, and 9—are not exposed to drugs, that they stay away from drugs as a matter of life-style and as a matter of choice.

Dennis and I both have children, and that is why we are here, both as parents and as Members of Congress.

What is shocking today about drugs is that they are cheaper, higher quality and easier to obtain than ever before. We have now a second generation of kids being exposed to drugs, and in some cases, three generations.

We had a situation happen about a month ago in Rockford where a family moved out from the inner city of Chicago to a home on the west side of Rockford for the purpose of trying to keep their kids away from the violence and gangs and drugs. A little 11-year-old child was sitting in the living room watching a Walt Disney cartoon when a shot rang through the window and pierced her skull and killed her. What happened was that across the street there was a party going on, involving gangs and people that were using drugs.

So what we see happening across America today is not only the people who are the direct result of drugs, that is, the kids who get hung up on them, but a whole army of innocents out there, people who just happen to be in the way of rival gangs fighting over drug territories. What is shocking about it is that there is no town too small, to be immune from this scourge of drugs and from the gangs.

If you look around us, this beautiful rural setting at one time, who would have thought that the scourge of drugs and gang activities would come anywhere near us; but that has indeed come. Congressman Hastert recognizes that and we want to thank you for the leadership in setting up this hearing today.

Mr. HASTERT. Thanks, Don.

Before we begin, let us be perfectly clear about what our goal is. This community and others like it that both Don and I represent have changed a lot in the last 20, 25 years, 35 years since the time that we were youths in schools here. I have a brother who teaches in Aurora, IL, a classroom, self-contained, kids at risk; the classroom is probably 70 percent Hispanic. Most of those kids have been exposed to some type of gang violence. Several of the students last year were killed, several in one classroom were killed.

In my view, there is no magic formula to solve the drug problem. Part of it has to be the demand side, communities, faith-based organizations, fraternal organizations and groups working together to clean up their own communities; that is where it has to start. The Federal Government plays a role, State and local governments play

a role; and we have to sometimes fight and go beyond where we can even imagine that this begins, and that is in the jungles in South America where this stuff is produced and it devastates a population and a group of people there as well. So it is a whole area.

Finally, we will be remiss in fighting the war on drugs in saying that all the effort that is done in growing this stuff, manufacturing it, smuggling it, moving it across the borders into this country, distributing it, selling it on the street corners, which costs about $90 billion a year of United States revenue that has exchanged hands, and about $50 billion, going back, smuggled back into Colombia or Mexico or the origin of where the things are. If that money wouldn't be able to be moved back, then the whole issue and money laundering issue, there would be no reason to grow the stuff, smuggle it and distribute it in the first place; and that is something we many times overlook, and something we won't be talking about much here today. But it is certainly a very important factor in this whole chain of drugs that affect our kids and communities and really the substance that helps gangs form and is their revenue source in many situations.

So, at this time, I would like to introduce our first panel. The first four witnesses will provide a human face to the war on drugs. Some are victims, some have been involved in gangs and all will provide insight into the scourge of drugs into rural communities.

The four witnesses are Pam Maakestad, "Jerome," "Derrick," and "Connie." I would also like to welcome Mike Coghlan, who is the former States Attorney in DeKalb County; Kris Povlsen is a project coordinator for the DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment; and I thank you for all for being here today.

In accordance with the House rules, we will ask to swear you in and so I ask at this time that you please stand and raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. HASTERT. Let the record show that the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Pam, please start with your statement. If you can pull the mic up a little closer.

**STATEMENTS OF PAM MAAKESTAD, PARENT OF A VICTIM OF DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE; "JEROME," FORMER ORGANIZED DRUG DEALER; "DERRICK," FORMER DRUG USER AND GANG MEMBER; "CONNIE," A TEENAGER WHO HAS NEVER USED DRUGS; MICHAEL COGHLAN, FORMER STATES ATTORNEY; AND KRIS POVLSEN, PROJECT COORDINATOR, DeKALB COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUBSTANCE ABUSE FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Ms. MAAKESTAD. My name is Pam Maakestad. My son Brent started using drugs when he was around the age of 12. He started off with casual use of pot, and then he used it more frequently. He started using other drugs, such as acid. By the age of 14, my son went to a 90-day inpatient rehabilitation program.

Three times a week I drove to the drug rehabilitation center in Wacaunda, IL. I went to group counseling sessions with my son,

Brent Cooper, and others who had become addicted to alcohol and marijuana at such an early age. Brent did well in the drug rehabilitation program. We both learned a lot. We learned each day would be a struggle to stay away from the drugs and alcohol.

My son stayed sober for about a year; then he started to use drugs again. He was 15 years old, he started to use acid and other more dangerous drugs. Along with drug use, he got into trouble with the law. He also started hanging around with gang members because they sold drugs. He hung around with the dealers in the gangs so often that he joined the gang.

Many people don't realize the connection between the causal use of pot and street gangs. Even in DeKalb, there is a connection between pot and gangs.

By the age of 16, Brent was back in the drug rehabilitation program. Once again, he was a model student. He graduated from the inpatient program and started to attend outpatient counseling.

At age 17, he was getting his life back together. He was trying to stay away from the drug people, but it wasn't easy. On August 17, 1991, Brent was shot and murdered near the courthouse in Sycamore. He was murdered by a group of people involved in drugs and gangs at the time he was murdered. Even though my son was not using drugs at the time he was murdered, it was his past drug use that brought him to the place where he was murdered. If it weren't for drugs and gangs, my son would be alive today.

On August 17, it will be 6 years that have passed since Brent was murdered. I think of him every day, especially when I look at his son who looks so much like him. I especially remember 1 night a few weeks before he was murdered; he was having a bad reaction to a drug known as Wickie stick. He was shaking and trembling uncontrollably, and I remember holding him, rocking him back and forth, until the drugs wore off and he accepted that everyone in the family was all right and safe.

Even today, I hear about local kids as young as 12 years old who use acid and pot. A lot of kids also use alcohol, which can be more destructive than illegal drugs. I came here today to share my story in order to help other families avoid the grief that drugs have brought my family.

Drugs and alcohol education programs find it hard to compete with the example set at home. Many people are afraid to tell adults to look at their own drug and alcohol use. The parents need drug and alcohol abuse education too.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much certainly for a moving statement and something that you lived through. We appreciate your coming here and sharing that with us.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Maakestad follows:]

Testimony Submitted To: Government Reform and Oversight Committee
Subcommittee on National Security

Testimony Submitted By: Pam Maakestad

My son Brent started using drugs when he was around the age of 12. He started-off with casual use of Pot. The he used it more frequently . He started using other drugs such as acid . By the age of 14 my son went to a 90 day in-patient rehabilitation program.

3 to 4 times a week I drove to the drug rehabilitation center in Wisconsin. I went to group counseling sessions with my son Brent Kooper and others who had become addicted to alcohol and marijuana at such an early age. Brent did well in the drug rehabilitation program. We both learned a lot. We learned that each day would be a struggle to stay away from alcohol and other drugs.

My stayed sober for about a year 1 year, then he started to use drugs again. He was 15 years old. He started to use acid and other more dangerous drugs. Along with his drug use he got in trouble with the law. He also started to hang around with gang members because they sold drugs. He hung-around with the dealers in the gang so often that he joined the gang.

Many people don't realize the connection between casual pot use and street gangs. Even in DeKalb county there's a connection between pot and gangs.

By age 16 Brent was back in the drug rehabilitation program. Once again he was a model student. He graduated fro the inpatient program and started to attend outpatient counseling.

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Even today I hear about local kids as young as 12 years old who use acid and pot. A lot of kids in DeKalb also use alcohol which can be more destructive than illegal drugs. I came here today to share my story in order to help other families avoid the grief that drugs have brought my family.

Drug and alcohol education programs find it hard to compete with the example set at home. Many people are afraid to tell adults to look at their own drug and alcohol use. The parents need drug and alcohol abuse education too.

Mr. HASTERT. Next I would like to introduce Mike Coghlan, former States Attorney here.

And, Mike, I think you would like to introduce one of the witnesses here. Mike, please go ahead.

Mr. COGHLAN. Thank you, Congressman Hastert. The witness I would like to introduce at this time is Connie. Also, Derrick and Jerome hopefully should be along shortly; we have their prepared statements.

Briefly, in preparation for this hearing, I interviewed eight individuals between the ages of 14 and 18; and as a theme, one of the things I found that was very interesting, that you may want to keep in the back of your mind during the information from the younger people, is a statement that one of the 17-year-olds made.

These individuals were in fact providing drugs to their friends, and they had been through drug rehabilitation and taken a fair amount of drugs themselves, and their focus was very interesting. Their focus was that they were in fact sharing, that they were doing something nice, that they were turning their friends on and being generous, not something that individuals that are trying to prevent the drug problem view as something good or something healthful.

So it was with this approach that four or five individuals mentioned how they supplied a significant amount of individuals in this specific community with drugs; in other words, they weren't, in their mind, polluting the community, they weren't hurting people; they were in fact helping people. And I mention that mentality because it was a little surprising to me, but I think it is important to keep the mentality in mind if we are going to approach solutions for the drug problem.

I am happy to go ahead with my statement or introduce Connie, whichever is your preference.

Mr. HASTERT. Why don't you go with your statement and then introduce Connie.

Mr. COGHLAN. OK.

First of all, I would like to thank the panelists who bring the current information here today. This is current, local information—I think that is important—it doesn't come from some other area. Thank you very much, Congressman Manzullo and Congressman Hastert, for coming to this community. We appreciate your show of concern for our drug situation.

In the last 10 years, I've dealt with the local problem ranging from pot pipes to murder. I would like to share five things I learned about drugs in this community.

First of all, in the DeKalb and Sycamore area, we have already solved the drug problem for 95 percent of the 12-year-olds, 92 percent of the 13-year-olds, 65 percent of 14-year-olds, 45 percent of the 15-year-olds, and 25 percent of the local 16-year-olds, so there are some things that are working. The reason we focus on the positive is because we believe that brings us more energy to approach the difficult parts.

There are a lot of people around here who've led their lives without illegal drugs, so we end up giving them credit. We can also thank the conscientious parents, schools, and government leaders

for the drug prevention efforts. By focusing on people who do not use drugs, we can help those who do abuse drugs and alcohol.

Second, many people who abuse drugs and alcohol in the past have stopped. They represent another large group in our community who have, "solved the drug problem," at least for themselves. People who formerly used drugs can help those who currently abuse drugs and alcohol, and in fact those are the people who provided the facts for the hearing today.

Third, drugs are drugs. In many respects, it doesn't matter what drug a person abuses, people abuse both legal and illegal drugs. If we want to reduce drug abuse, we have to look at legal and illegal drugs. This approach is less popular because it focuses on behavior of adults. We should continue to increase drug programs for adults.

Fourth, age discrimination against young people I believe contributes to drug abuse. Society might benefit by cultural diversity classes where adults learn more about youth culture. As a young person, we could learn about young individuals' music, clothing, video games and other aspects by their culture which are often criticized by the adults. More adults could make special efforts to get to know people between the ages of 12 and 17.

Fifth, the word "goal," I found in my interviews, has a negative context, and I was surprised to find that. The reason it did is, they were often confronted with the statement, don't you have any goals? Well, in reality, they have goals, they are just maybe impotent goals. And that is what would keep them away from drugs is a series of goals; because there are young people who say, I have too many things to do in the day, I can't find time to do all the activities.

So when people say they are bored—goals can help people achieve happiness and success, but many people don't do this because of the negative misconception about goal-setting. It is a useful skill, like reading or writing. Goals can be fun; like learning to drive a car, it takes more than a brief effort.

In relation to the drug situation, goal-setting can be taught at age 12 and again at age 15. There are numerous commercially sold programs to help individuals develop the skill of achieving goals, so my recommendation would be there be programs available for eighth graders and sophomores, and again this comes from my interview with the eight individuals between the ages of 14 and 18.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Coghlan follows:]

Testimony submitted to: Government Reform and Oversight Committee
Subcommittee on National Security, International
Affairs and Criminal Justice

Submitted by: Michael Coghlan

First of all, I would like to thank our panelist who bring current, local information regarding the drug situation. Thank you Congressman Hastert and others from Congress for your concern about the drug situation in the DeKalb and Sycamore areas.

In the last 10 years, I dealt with local drug problems ranging from pot pipes to murder. I would like to share five things I have learned about drugs in this community.

First, the people in the DeKalb and Sycamore area have already solved the drug problem for 95% of our local 12 year olds, 92% of 13 year olds, 65% of the 14 year olds, 45% of the 15 year olds, and 25% of our local 16 year olds. There are a lot of people around here who live their lives without illegal drugs. So, let's give some credit to the conscientious people ages 12 to 17 who have made the choice to stay away from drugs and alcohol. We can also thank the conscientious parents, schools and government leaders for drug prevention efforts. By focusing on the people who do not use drugs we can find help for those who abuse drugs and alcohol.

Second, many people who abused drugs or alcohol in the past have stopped. They represent another large group in our community who have "solved" the drug problem, at least for themselves. People who formerly used drugs can help those who currently abuse drugs and alcohol.

Third, drugs is drugs. In many respects, it doesn't matter what drugs a person abuses. People abuse both legal and illegal drugs. If we want to reduce drug abuse, we have to look at abuse of both legal and illegal drugs. This approach is less popular because it focuses on adults. We should continue to increase drug awareness programs for adults.

Fourth, age discrimination against young people contributes to drug abuse. Society might benefit by cultural diversity classes where adults learn about youth culture. Ask a young person about music, clothing, video games and other aspects of their culture which are often criticized by adults. More adults could make special efforts to get to know people between the ages of 12 and 17.

Fifth, the word "goal has a negative connotation for many in the youth culture. This is because of a common criticism "don't you have any goals." When people say they are bored, I think they just have impotent goals. Goal-setting can help people achieve happiness and success, yet many people deny themselves these benefits in life because of negative misconceptions about goal-setting. Goal-setting is a useful skill like reading or writing. Goal-setting is also a skill which can be fun to develop. Like learning to drive a car, goal-setting takes more than a brief effort. In relation to the drug situation, goal-setting skills could be taught at ages 12 and again at age 15. There are numerous commercially-sold programs to help someone develop the skill of setting and achieving goals.

Mr. HASTERT. Would you like to introduce Connie?

Mr. COGHLAN. Yes. I have known Connie since 1991, and Connie has some firsthand observations, and I think she is a great source of information for you for these congressional purposes.

Mr. HASTERT. Connie, if you just pull the mic up so we can hear you, we would appreciate it.

CONNIE. I was first exposed to drugs at age 12, that was 6 years ago, in Sycamore. At the age of 12, I saw 15 to 20 people get high on pot or tripping on acid almost every day. From talking to other kids, age 12, I estimate that 65 out of 600 junior high school age kids use drugs. That is a little more than 10 percent of the pre-high school age people in Sycamore.

I went to eighth grade DeKalb. There I saw between 10 and 15 people using drugs on a regular basis.

When I was 14, I saw approximately 50 people my age using pot, acid, cocaine or some other drug. In school I saw as many as 40 people who told me they were "trippin'" on acid or high on some other drugs. From what I heard, half my class used pot or acid.

Most of the drug use happened away from schools, and the teachers offered programs to help kids stay away from the drugs. Most drug use occurred at friends' houses, behind buildings or in alleys.

In the last 6 years, I have seen hundreds of people in the DeKalb and Sycamore areas using drugs. I have seen athletes turn into burn-outs, students with As and Bs get bad grades, I have seen parents ignore their children, and a person crash their car into a pole. I also remember one person go into seizures and fall to the floor when he mixed alcohol, acid and pot. I also know one person who went to jail and another who lost his job, all because of drugs.

From what I have seen only 10 to 15 percent of the drug users get caught by police or other people of authority, and the people who get caught use drugs 100 times before they get caught.

I know four people who have gone through drug rehabilitation programs. I think the most effective way to keep people away from drugs is by friends and parents saying it is stupid to do them.

I stayed away from drugs because I have seen how it messed up other people who do it. It was a help to me to see people who fried their brains on drugs.

I believe presentations are more effective in smaller groups and get more people to pay attention. During school assemblies, I noticed most of the students look around the room at their friends rather than watching the drug program.

Today I know between 200 and 300 people who use drugs and in my view have no intent to stop.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Connie.

[The prepared statement of Connie follows:]

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE. TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LNW.

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I WAS FIRST EXPOSED TO DRUGS AT AGE 12. THAT WAS SIX YEARS AGO IN SYCAMORE..

WHEN I WAS 12 YEARS OLD I SAW 15 TO 20 PEOPLE SMOKE POT OR "TRIPPIN'" ON ACID. FROM TALKING TO OTHER KIDS AGE 12, I ESTIMATE THAT 65 OUT OF 600 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AGE KIDS USED DRUGS. THAT'S A LITTLE MORE THAN 10% OF THE PRE-HIGH SCHOOL-AGED PEOPLE IN SYCAMORE. THAT WAS SIX YEARS AGO.

I WENT TO EIGHTH GRADE IN DEKALB. IN DEKALB I SAW BETWEEN 10 AND 15 PEOPLE USING DRUGS.

WHEN I WAS 14 I SAW APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE MY AGE USING POT, ACID, COCAINE OR SOME OTHER DRUG. IN SCHOOL I SAW AS MANY AS 40 PEOPLE WHO TOLD ME THEY WERE "TRIPPIN'" ON ACID. FROM WHAT I SAW AND WHAT I HEARD, HALF OF MY CLASSMATES (AGE 14) USED POT AND/OR ACID.

MOST THE DRUG USE HAPPENED AWAY FROM THE SCHOOLS, AND THE TEACHERS OFFERED PROGRAMS TO HELP THE KIDS STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS. MOST DRUG USE OCCURRED AT FRIEND'S HOUSES AND . BEHIND BUILDINGS AND IN ALLEYS.

IN THE LAST SIX YEARS I HAVE SEEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THE DEKALB AND SYCAMORE AREAS USING DRUGS. I HAVE SEEN ATHLETES TURN IN TO BURN-OUTS. I HAVE SEEN STUDENTS WITH A's AND B's GET BAD GRADES. I HAVE SEEN PARENTS IGNORE THEIR CHILDREN. I SAW A PERSON WHO CRASHED HIS CAR INTO A POLE, AND I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE WITH FRIED BRAINS BECAUSE OF DRUG USE. I ALSO REMEMBER SEEING ONE PERSON GO INTO SEIZURES AND FALL TO THE FLOOR WHEN HE MIXED ALCOHOL, ACID AND POT. I KNOW ONE PERSON WHO WENT TO JAIL AND ANOTHER WHO LOST HIS JOB, ALL BECAUSE OF DRUGS.

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, ONLY 10% TO 15% OF THE DRUG USERS GET CAUGHT BY POLICE OR OTHER PEOPLE OF AUTHORITY, AND THE PEOPLE WHO GET CAUGHT USE DRUGS 100 TIMES FOR EACH TIME THEY GET CAUGHT.

GETTING CAUGHT CAN HELP THEM MOVE AWAY FROM DRUGS. I KNOW 4 PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

I THINK THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM DRUGS IS BY FRIENDS AND PEERS SAYING IT'S STUPID TO DO DRUGS.

I STAYED AWAY FROM DRUGS BECAUSE I SAW HOW IT MESSED-UP OTHER PEOPLE. IT WAS A HELP TO ME TO SEE PEOPLE WHO HAD FRIED THEIR BRAINS ON DRUGS. I DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE THE WORD OF POLICE OR TREATMENT PEOPLE. I SAW IT FIRST HAND.

DRUG PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IN SMALLER GROUPS.

AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES I NOTICED MOST OF THE STUDENTS LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM AT THEIR FRIENDS RATHER THAN WATCHING THE DRUG PROGRAM.

TODAY I KNOW BETWEEN 200 AND 300 PEOPLE IN DEKALB THAT USE DRUGS.

(Connie)

Mr. HASTERT. We will move next to Mr. Povlsen.

Mr. POVLSEN. Thank you for inviting me here. I am going to come from the perspective of prevention. I direct the DeKalb County Partnership for Substance Abuse Free Environment, which is a community coalition that we've had in place here in DeKalb for the last 8 years. I am going to do something I don't usually do and that is read, so bear with me.

The root causes of substance abuse among teens is very complicated. For that reason, the solutions of the problems are complex. Traditionally the government has looked at three approaches: law enforcement, treatment and prevention. All are necessary. These three approaches also focus on two facets of the drug use, that is, supply and demand; and I am glad to hear that you suggested that that is important.

I do think, however, that we need to focus more on the demand side than we do the supply side. However, what tends to be the case in our society with most issues is to react to problems, spending an enormous amount of financial, as well as human, resources reacting to problems as opposed to being proactive and preventing them.

The analogy I commonly hear is, if the community had a problem with persons drowning at an excessively high rate in a swift and dangerous river, resources would be spent pulling the people out of the river, either resuscitating them or burying them, as opposed to going upstream to see the causes of how and why they got into the river.

I want to make that statement again because I think it is an important one. If a community had a problem with persons drowning at an excessively high rate in a swift and dangerous river, resources would be spent pulling the people out of the river, resuscitating them, rather than going upstream and finding out why they are falling in in the first place.

The drowning we see in our society, as it relates to substance abuse, includes increased incidents of rape, murder, assault, burglary, teen pregnancy, dropout rates, gang involvement, car crashes, medical costs, et cetera. Every problem we have in our society can somehow be traced back to substance abuse. While no one will argue we need to get criminals off the street, that we need to protect our society, as long as we continue to focus on this as the way of dealing with it, we will never be able to build enough prisons or hire enough policemen to solve the problem.

The direction that we need to move in our society comes from three levels, Federal and State and local. All are necessary. Start with Federal, since that is who, I guess, we are talking to here. Leadership begins at the top, and you are the top.

Until there truly is a belief that prevention is the key, that prevention works—and without prevention, all the jails in the world will not stop the problem, and I think leadership is more than just appropriating money in support of local efforts—the first and foremost responsibility of the Federal Government is to take what I think are some very tough stands against some very powerful industries and financial supporters of our legislators, namely, the liquor, tobacco, and entertainment industries.

As long as we have these three industries in the Nation continuing to influence our young people in terms of marketing, advertising, and probably the most important thing, setting the norms of our society, we will continue to have our young people fall into the perilous river of substance abuse and violence. Regardless of what anyone says, these industries are establishing the norms and influencing the life-styles of our society.

I applaud the direction that Congress has taken against the tobacco industry. It is a stance in a direction we must go and should have taken long ago. We must now do the same with the liquor industry and eventually deal with the violence and other problems that we see, that are seen in the entertainment industry. These types of issues can best be dealt with at the top and certainly it's the role of the Federal Government.

The second responsibility of our Federal Government is to provide adequate financial supports to States and communities in establishing and maintaining community prevention collaborations. While the government must not pay the way—and we have not had our way paid here with our local partnership—it must be there to support the startup costs and the continuation as local communities struggle to continue.

This also includes the rural areas, and I am glad to see you are out here in the rural area, as well as the urban. In fact, rural areas have unique problems in establishing coalitions not present in the urban areas.

I think it is also important to note that urban communities, like DeKalb and surrounding areas, don't need hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the RFPs that I have seen come out where, unless you have a community where there are hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary, were not eligible, and that sometimes eliminates us from the smaller amounts, where the community can use $10, $15, $20,000 and do a tremendous amount of work. That is what I see the Federal Government needing.

The State government, their role is similar to the Federal Government; however, it is more important in providing a modeled structure and guidance, and I guess I will talk to Brad on this one.

Although it is important that each community address the prevention issues related and implemented and monitored to the outcomes of the effectiveness, the State can act as an effective administrative and fiscal agent in monitoring and distributing Federal funds, the State should not be in the business of doing prevention, but rather administering prevention, which I think Illinois does a good job of.

And locally—and I think this is where the key is—it is local communities' role to develop local community coalitions to address the needs of the community. Most communities are rich with service clubs, school prevention programs, law enforcement, religious organizations, employee assistance programming in businesses, media coverage, social services, recreation, parents and families. It is the role of the community to develop a coalition of these efforts to maximize their efforts to attain the common goal of reducing alcohol and other drugs.

The community must look inward to its own resources and not outwards. It must develop its own strategies, it must develop its

own expectations and its own community norms. I think the community needs to look at what norms it has in its community that glamorize or promote substance abuse, and we see that in the families, most certainly.

Communities don't need money to develop new programs, they don't need money to start new agencies, they don't need money to invent new bureaucracy; they need some financial support to begin developing and maintaining cooperative efforts.

In conclusion, the drug threat to our teens in our rural communities is not going to get better until the norms of our society—and I want to stress that, the norms of our society as it relates to alcohol and other drugs and violence change—these norms are not going to change as long as we continue to embrace the very dangerous and influential industries such as the alcohol, tobacco, and entertainment industries. As long as we have these three industries glamorizing the very things that prevention programs are trying to address, as negative instructions to our youth, we will continue to lose the battle.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Povlsen follows:]

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**FIELD HEARING: DRUG THREAT TO TEENS IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

**Testimony provided by:** Kris Povlsen, Certified Prevention Professional, Ben Gordon Center and Project Coordinator of The DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment (DCP/SAFE) July 7, 1997

**Testimony submitted to:** Government Reform and Oversight Committee
Subcommittee on National Security

**The DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment (DCP/SAFE)** originated through a joint effort from NIU's President John La Tourette and the DeKalb School District. In December of 1989, NIU and the DeKalb School district sponsored a breakfast meeting which initiated discussion about the alcohol and other drug problems in the city of DeKalb. A Task Force aimed at prevention of substance abuse grew out of the discussions at this meeting.

The group adopted the following Mission Statement in April of 1990:

> The DeKalb County Partnership for Substance Abuse Free Environment **(DCP/SAFE)** is a community coalition working towards the prevention and elimination of illegal and harmful use of alcohol and other drugs. The Task Force's commitment is toward a total wellness concept for youth, adults and the community as a whole.

Additionally, the following goals were named:

| | |
|---|---|
| Goal I. | Reduce or eliminate alcohol and drug crimes. |
| Goal II. | Reduce or eliminate accidents related to drug and alcohol use which may occur in households, businesses or public places. |
| Goal III. | Reduce or eliminate drug or other related absenteeism in the workplace and schools. |
| Goal IV. | Reduce the number of people who suffer from alcohol and other drug abuse. |
| Goal V. | Reduce domestic violence, assault, battery or child abuse related to drug or alcohol abuse. |
| Goal VI. | Reduce the demand for detoxification at the hospital emergency room level. |

As a result of generating over 10,000 volunteer hours and over $128,000 of in-kind services to DeKalb County, **DCP/SAFE** was honored to be the recipient of the 1992 Governor's Hometown Award, quite an accomplishment for a group of concerned citizens who had assembled for less than 2 years.

In October 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Annual Assemblies were held with over 100 registrants continuing to show support for DCP/SAFE's

United Way

comprehensive prevention efforts. Action Groups continue to meet monthly with each group impacting the community on a different, yet collaborative manner.

Part of DCP/SAFE's plan is to avoid duplicating structure and activities. Moreover, it works to redirect existent resources toward prevention in order to efficiently impact the problem. This redirection is occurring increasingly and, considered alone, represents a major accomplishment.

DCP/SAFE is comprised of six Action Groups that meet monthly and strategize how to effectively address the mission of reducing or eliminating problems related to substance abuse. The six Action Groups are as follows:

**HOME/FAMILY/COMMUNITY**

**FOCUS:** To educate the family community to assume responsibility for prevention through programs which teach social/life skills to the end of developing healthy families and alternatives for the community.

**MEMBERS:** Parents, social service personnel, educators, and child care providers.

**LEGISLATIVE/LAW**

**FOCUS:** To increase awareness of problems and dangers related to substance use and the legal consequences associated with them; to develop, promote, or change laws and community norms which will reduce substance use related problems and enhance community standards.

**MEMBERS:** Law enforcement, judicial officers, attorneys, legislative personnel and health educators.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**FOCUS:** To schedule and coordinate media placement for DCP/SAFE press releases and print advertising; to produce and market DCP/SAFE events, materials, information and mission to the community.

**MEMBERS:** Media professionals, PR/PI business personnel, marketing personnel.

## RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

**FOCUS:** To reduce alcohol and other drug related problems and enhance the quality of life in DeKalb County by involving religious and spiritual leaders and congregations county wide.

**MEMBERS:** Clergy and lay persons with religious affiliation.

## SPORTS/EDUCATION

**FOCUS:** To engage and utilize educational and recreational personnel and organizations to reduce alcohol and other drug problems of DeKalb County youth; to include and provide for youth opportunity to develop and lead drug free lifestyles.

**MEMBERS:** School administrators, teachers, counselors, recreation facility employees, parents, youth leaders, and high school students.

## WORKPLACE

**FOCUS:** To promote a healthy, drug free workplace environment by developing and supporting workplace policy, education and information; to reduce or eliminate drug/alcohol related absenteeism, accidents, insurance claims in business and industry throughout DeKalb County.

**MEMBERS:** Business, industry, company personnel.

## DUI

**FOCUS:** To reduce the incidence of drinking and driving and, therefore, alcohol-related crashes by developing an action plan for future implementation based on a needs assessment of DeKalb County.

**MEMBERS:** Law enforcement, Adjudication, Youth, Faith community, Community/ Civic Group, Prevention Provider, Business, School district, Government, Media, Liquor, and Probation.

During the past 8 years, **DCP/SAFE** has accomplished many objectives and provided a variety of prevention activities in the county. Listed below are only a few of these accomplishments:

- Development and distribution of drug related "Crime Stopper" posters in the workplace.
- Alternative Teen Activity "Gold Card" Programs involving 1200 "Gold Card" students.
- Implementation of the "Bronze Card" activity for grade school students.
- Support of T.A.R.G.E.T. program in DeKalb County School districts.
- Letter from State's Attorney distributed to all parents of high school students related to underage drinking.
- Continued support of "Family Study Institute" in DeKalb County Grade Schools.
- Continued support and implementation of the Alliance for Achievement Program in grade schools in DeKalb County. This program is designed to focus on and enhance values which support family. Education and family members work cooperatively in this venture.
- Implementation of Prevention Skit Presentations for Grade School students, by High School Teens from churches and community groups.
- Support for implementation of "Drug Free School Zones".
- Continued development and support to and Education Alternative Program for first time youth offenders of any alcohol related offense.
- Support and direct influence in City of DeKalb, DeKalb County, and City of Genoa passing "Server Training" ordinance for establishments and persons serving alcohol to the public.
- Distribution of 10,000 Red Ribbons during National Red Ribbon Week.
- Implementation of monthly 3/4 page information prevention ads in space donated by three local newspapers. These ads appear regularly with a wide variety of information regarding alcohol and other drug abuse.
- Continued recruitment and support county churches to integrate a list of 15 activities in each congregation to deal proactively with the problem of alcohol and other drugs create for persons within their congregation.
- Distribution of self-help, education materials with spiritual overtones for persons wanting information about alcohol and other drugs.
- Development of facts related to alcohol/drugs for distribution in church bulletins, school newspapers and business newsletters.
- Certification of "Certified Businesses in DeKalb County" promoting alcohol and drug free work places.
- The "Week of the Young Child" parent education and promotion with County Day Care Providers and parents.
- DeKalb County Youth Forum where county teens shared problems they face regarding alcohol and other drug use.
- Development and distribution of DCP/SAFE prevention Newsletter.
- Six DCP/SAFE Assemblies.
- Instrumental in passage of Senate Bill 90 to allow municipalities to display "Drug Free School Zone" signs on state roadways.
- Successfully received Grant dollars to support the DeKalb Plaza Mother's Club alternative activities for DeKalb Plaza youth and residents.
- Recipient 1994 In-Touch Award for Excellence.
- Initiation of Risk Factor data collection and analysis of DeKalb County.
- Development of the "Quality of Life Relationship Index".
- "Sunday Afternoon Live" youth group skits with healthy choices theme - 6 Congregations

- Development of an "After School" child care needs assessment for Sycamore parents.
- County-wide apartment owners/managers forum dealing with issues related to alcohol/drugs/gangs/violence.
- Initiation of a County Wide DUI Task Force.
- DeKalb County DCP/SAFE Sunday
- DeKalb County DCP/SAFE Youth Day
- DeKalb County Business Certification Recognition Luncheon
- Co-Sponsor, "Smart Kids, Smart Choices" Parent Seminar
- "Hooked on Fishing" Program for Youth
- County wide DUI survey
- "Celebrate Sober: DUI Simulation" at Sycamore High School
- Student scholarships to Teen Leadership Trainings
- Initiation of DeKalb County Tobacco Prevention Project

The root causes of substance abuse among teens is varied and complicated. For that reason, the solutions to the problem are as complex. Traditionally Government has looked at three approaches: law enforcement, treatment and prevention. All are necessary in order to begin reversing the trends and to effectively reduce and eliminate the problems related to alcohol and other drug use.

These three approaches also focus on two facets of drug use, that of supply and demand. Both of these issues also need to be addressed as well.

However, what tends to be the case in our society with most issues, is to react to problems, spending enormous amounts of financial as well as human resources reacting to problems as opposed to being proactive. The analogy commonly used is this:. if a community had a problem with persons drowning at an excessively high rate in a swift and dangerous river,. resources would be spent pulling the people out of the river, either recessitating them or burying them, as opposed to going upstream to see the causes of how and why they where falling into the river to begin with.

The drownings that we are seeing in our society as it relates to substance abuse include: an increased incidence of rape, murder, assaults, burglary, teen pregnancy, school drop out rates, gang involvement, car crashes, medical costs, child abuse, divorce, unemployment, productivity loss, and other violent crimes (to name only a few). What has been the response by our government to our citizens in terms of dealing with these problems? For the most part, increased law enforcement and prison construction. When are we going to finally walk up stream and spend more resources on what is causing our young people to "fall into the river of substance abuse" to begin with?

While no one will argue that we need to focus on getting criminals and dangerous persons off of the streets to protect society; as long as conditions in our society continue that promotes substance abuse, we will never be able to keep up with the rising numbers of substance abusers and the violence, crime and other societal problems that our society will continue to produce.

The direction that we need to move in comes from three levels: federal, state and local efforts. All are important. All are necessary. If any of them do not do their part, the goals of each will never be reached.

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** Leadership begins at the top. Until there truly is a belief that prevention s the key, that prevention works, and that without prevention, all the jails in the world will not stop the problem, we will never make progress.

Leadership is also more that simply appropriating money in support of local efforts. The first and foremost responsibility of the federal government is to take some very tough stands against some very powerful industries and financial supporters of congress, namely the liquor, tobacco and entertainment industry. As long as we have these three industries in the nation continuing to influence our young people in terms of marketing, advertising and setting the norms of our society, we will continue to have our young people "fall into the perilous river of substance abuse and violence." Regardless of what anyone says, these industries are establishing the norms and influencing the lifestyles of our society.

I applaud the direction and stance the federal government is now taking with the tobacco industry. It is a stance and direction that should have been taken long ago. We must now do the same with the liquor industry and eventually deal with the violence issue in the entertainment industry. These types of issues can best be dealt with at the top and is certainly the role of the federal government.

The second responsibility of our federal government is to provide adequate financial support to states and communities in establishing and maintaining community prevention collaborations. While the government must not "pay the way" for local states and communities to establish and maintain community partnerships, it must provide some support for coalitions to thrive at levels necessary to have an impact. This includes rural areas as well as urban areas. In fact, rural areas have unique problems in establishing coalitions that are not present in urban areas. It is also important to note that where urban communities may need hundreds of thousands of dollars to be effective, rural communities can make great strides with just tens of thousands. Federal grants often require communities to apply for much more money that necessary, thus eliminating them from the competition.

**State Government:** The state's role is similar to the federal government. However, it's role is more important in providing a model, structure and guidance to local communities in developing community prevention programming. Although it is important that each community address the prevention issues related to it unique problems and demographics, the state's role is to assure that quality prevention is being implemented and monitored as to outcome effectiveness. The state can act as an effective administrative and fiscal agent of monitoring and distributing federal funds for prevention. The state should not be in the business of doing prevention, but rather administering prevention.

**Local Communities:** It is the role of the local communities to develop local community coalitions to address the needs of the community. Most communities are rich with service clubs, school prevention programs, law enforcement prevention, religious organizations, employee assistance programming, media coverage, social service providers, recreational facilities, parents and governmental entities. It is the role of the community to develop a coalition of these efforts to maximize their efforts to attain the common goal of reducing problems related to alcohol and other drugs. The community must first look inward for resources, needs and strategies. It must develop its own goals, expectations and community norms it desires and expects of its citizens.

While the state and federal government can and must provide some funding, direction and support, ultimately it is necessary for each community to be the framework of its own destiny and direction. Communities must take ownership, work collaboratively, and share in the responsibility of its youth and community as a whole.

Each entity of the community can only be as effective as its ability to work with, and on behalf of, the others in the community keeping the common goal of safe and drug free communities in mind.

Communities do not need money to develop new programs. Communities do not need money to start new agencies. Communities do not need money to invent new bureaucracy. What communities need is financial support to begin developing and maintaining cooperative, collaborative efforts, combining resources to develop a synergy and composite mission destination.

In conclusion, the drug threats to teens in our rural communities are not going to get better until the norms of our society as it relates to alcohol, other drugs and violence change. These norms are not going to change as long as we embrace three of the most dangerous and influential industries in our society, namely, the alcohol, tobacco and entertainment industries. As long as these three industries glamorize the very things that prevention programs are addressing as negative and destructive to our youth, we will continue to loose the battle.

Until we realize that we as a society are going to have to put as much time, energy and resources into prevention (stopping the people from falling into the river) as we are enforcement, we will never be able to hire enough police and build enough prisons to reduce our alcohol, drug and crime problem.

And finally, communities are going to have to embrace the problem in a collaborative, collective manner for change to occur. No longer can we afford to have a bunch of individual "programs" designed to meet the needs of a few and not in collaboration with the community as a whole.

Community prevention does work. We must not focus on single events or one aspect of a community. The work of **DCP/SAFE** is prevention at its best. It involves all aspects of the community. It focuses on youth, adults, and community. It does not label or target just one aspect of a community. While youth are a part of the community, virtually all other aspects of the community impact our youth and must be a part of the solution.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Coghlan, I am going to ask you to introduce another one of our witnesses.

Mr. COGHLAN. Congressman, this is Mr. Cole. I have known Mr. Cole for several years. He is originally from the Chicago area—actually, Chicago and New York—and he has been in the DeKalb area for a number of years, 10 or so, and he is a very rich source of information. He has a statement for Congress today.

Mr. Cole.

Mr. HASTERT. And for the record, you will be introduced as Jerome.

JEROME. Hi. My name is Jerome Cole. I am here to tell you about the drugs in the DeKalb area and the surrounding areas around here.

I know a lot about the drugs because I used to use drugs. I also sold drugs to people, and I organized people to sell drugs in this area. Until recently, I lived in the area that had the highest drug rate possibly in DeKalb. The building I lived in was considered a haven for drug users and people that wanted to drop by and sell different types of drugs.

I know different people in DeKalb that are using drugs right now, and it is getting—I can't say it is getting way out of hand, because I think it is leveling off and drugs are picking up pretty much everywhere. I know a couple young kids, 10, 11, 12, all the way down to 8 and 9 years old, that use drugs. Cocaine use in DeKalb has leveled off a little bit, but different drugs are coming into DeKalb to attract a different type of people.

For instance, like the skateboarders like to use a lot of drugs to make themselves trip, or what you call hallucinate. And then you have the athletes. A lot of athletes use a lot of marijuana and use a lot of cocaine. Recently in DeKalb, people have been sprinkling crack cocaine on blunt. Blunt is a cigar which is hollowed out and refilled with marijuana or weed, and this mixture of cocaine and pot can stop a person's heart.

Heroin is also used in DeKalb. I know six people in DeKalb who are hooked on heroin. Heroin is the lowest of the low in the drug chain. Most people snort it, but others pocket it or shoot it in their arms. Heroin is not sold in the DeKalb area, as far as I know. They drive to Chicago to get heroin. When the heroin high is over, the users usually get a lot of physical pains, like back pains, stomach pains, leg pains. They function when they are on heroin, but they walk around like zombies when it wears off.

I have seen many people going from smoking pot occasionally to like full-time drug users, guys who were real close to me, athletes, people considered respected in the community as businessmen.

Some police have been more effective with the young kids by speaking to them, talking to them, getting to know the different people and getting to know the people they hang around and the drug users. Local church programs and job programs and the youth activity programs are also very helpful to reduce drug use.

I am a local business manager, and I have hired at least 25 people to help them stay away from the drugs. I have also helped organize youth activities locally. I have come into contact with 200 or 300 people in these positive activities, and I think church programs, jobs, and sport activities keep kids away from drugs. It de-

ters their mind to doing other things when they have positive programs to help them out.

The drug and gang uses in DeKalb will only stop when they stop at the top, because behind every puppet is a puppeteer, somebody pulling the strings. So when there are enough activities in the areas to get the kids to do other things, I think kids would make positive choices among themselves. And that is basically why I go with that.

[The prepared statement of Jerome follows:]

Testimony Submitted To: Government Reform and Oversight Committee
Subcommittee on National Security
Testimony Submitted By: Jerome Cole

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT DRUGS IN THE DEKALB AREA.

I KNOW A LOT ABOUT DRUGS BECAUSE I USED DRUGS, I SOLD DRUGS, AND I ORGANIZED A GROUP OF 5 DRUG DEALERS TO SELL DRUGS TO PEOPLE IN AND AROUND DEKALB.

UNTIL RECENTLY I LIVED IN AN AREA THAT HAD THE HIGHEST DRUG USE IN DEKALB. THE BUILDING I LIVED IN WAS REFERRED TO BY THE DRUG TASK FORCE AS A HAVEN FOR DRUG DEALERS. OVER A FOUR (4) YEAR PERIOD I MET MANY DRUG DEALERS AND DRUG USERS IN THE DEKALB AREA. I SAW OR TOOK PART IN A LOT OF DRUG DEALS IN THE DEKALB AREA. FROM WHAT I SAW AND WHAT THE OTHER DEALERS TOLD ME, THEY SUPPLIED APPROXIMATELY THOUSANDS PEOPLE WITH MARIJUANA, COCAINE AND OTHER DRUGS.

I KNOW ONE LOCAL TEN (10) YEAR OLD IN DEKALB WHO USES MARIJUANA. MARIJUANA IS USUALLY CALLED "WEED" OR "BUD" OR "CHRONIC". FROM LISTENING TO SEVERAL DRUG DEALERS, IT SOUNDS LIKE 15% TO 35% OF THE LOCAL JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS MAY SMOKE POT, AND AS MANY AS 75% OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SMOKE POT. FROM WHAT I SEE, POT SMOKING IS ON THE RISE IN THE DEKALB AREA. IT'S LIKE A FAD.

FOUR YEARS AGO 4 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES BOUGHT DRUGS FROM ME. SOME OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAID THEY WERE BUYING POT AND COCAINE FOR THEIR PARENTS' USE. SOME ALSO TOLD ME THEY SMOKED POT WITH THEIR PARENTS.

COCAINE USE HAS LEVELED-OFF IN DEKALB, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL. ACID USE IS INCREASING AMONG THE HIPPIE-TYPES AND SKATEBOARDERS.

RECENTLY IN DEKALB PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SPRINKLING CRACK COCAINE ON BLUNTS. A BLUNT IS A CIGAR WHICH WAS HOLLOWED-OUT AND RE-FILLED WITH WEED OR MARIJUANA. THIS MIXTURE OF COCAINE AND POT CAN STOP A PERSONS HEART.

HEROINE IS ALSO BEING USED IN DEKALB. I KNOW 6 PEOPLE IN DEKALB WHO ARE HOOKED ON HEROINE. HEROINE IS THE LOWEST OF THE LOWS. MOST PEOPLE SNORT IT, BUT SOME "POP" IT (SHOOT IT IN THEIR ARM). THE HEROINE IS NOT SOLD IN DEKALB, AS FAR AS I KNOW. THE DEKALB USERS DRIVE TO CHICAGO TO GET HEROINE. WHEN THE HEROINE HIGH IS OVER, THE USER IS IN A LOT OF PHYSICAL PAIN - BACK PAINS, STOMACH PAINS. THEY'RE FUNCTIONAL WHILE THEY'RE ON HEROINE, BUT THEY WALK AROUND LIKE ZOMBIES WHEN THE DRUG WEARS-OFF. MOST OF THE HEROINE USERS ARE COMMITTING CRIMES TO GET THE MONEY FOR THE DRUG.

LOOKING AT THE DRUG BUSINESS FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT SEEMS THERE ARE ONLY THREE WAYS TO GO:

1. STAY AWAY FROM THE DRUG SCENE ENTIRELY
2. GO TO A PENAL INSTITUTION
3. A PINE BOX

I SEE THREE TYPES OF DRUG USER:

1. THE RECREATIONAL OR SOCIAL USER WHICH INCLUDES RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
2. THE PERSON WHO GOES ON PERIODIC BINGES - IF THEY CAME INTO SOME EXTRA MONEY OR THEY'RE UPSET ABOUT A PROBLEM
3. THE "HYPE" OR THE PERSON WITH THE CONSTANT HABIT

I HAVE SEEN MANY PEOPLE GO FROM SMOKING POT OCCASIONALLY TO CONSTANT USE OF MORE SERIOUS DRUGS LIKE COCAINE AND HEROINE.

POLICE HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE DRUG PROBLEM WHEN THEY TALK RESPECTFULLY AND GET TO KNOW THE DRUG DEALERS AND USERS. YOUNGER DEKALB CITY POLICE HAVE HELPED REDUCE DRUGS IN DEKALB BY GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE IN THE DRUG CULTURE.

LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS, JOB PROGRAMS AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO VERY HELPFUL TO REDUCE DRUG USE.

I AM A LOCAL BUSINESS MANAGER AND I HAVE HIRED AT LEAST 25 PEOPLE TO HELP THEM STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS. I HAVE ALSO HELPED ORGANIZE YOUTH ACTIVITIES LOCALLY. I HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH 200 TO 300 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THESE POSITIVE ACTIVITIES, AND I THINK CHURCH PROGRAMS, JOBS, AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM DRUGS.

_____(Jerome)

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much. We are going to come back and ask you questions.

JEROME. No problem.

Mr. HASTERT. Let me lead off the questions.

First of all, Mr. Coghlan, you talked about setting goals in communities and you said busy kids don't use drugs. So you are saying kids that are involved in school communities or school activities, community activities, basically are kids that don't necessarily—or aren't apt to get involved.

Mr. COGHLAN. As part of my survey, I also talked to young individuals who, I had assumed, never used any drugs, and they told me they never did, and that was based upon a lot of activities, extracurricular activities.

And the interesting thing I would also like to note is, the individuals heavily involved with drugs estimated the people that partied were at 80 percent. That means people that use drugs, alcohol, under age are 80 percent. Whereas nondrug users estimated it at 40 percent, which is a significant perception difference. The nondrug estimated users are lower, in answer to your question.

Mr. HASTERT. And this is all survey.

Mr. COGHLAN. This is a very unscientific survey of eight individuals, and I am the telephone messenger.

Mr. HASTERT. Connie, you talked about getting involved in drugs when you were 12 years old or being confronted with a drug situation when you were 12 years old, and you said at that time you were a sixth grader, and your estimation is 10 percent of the kids in your class in your community that were in some way involved in drugs, that is sixth grade, 12 years of age.

CONNIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTERT. What is the defining factor between kids who get involved in drugs and don't get involved in drugs, in your opinion?

CONNIE. I feel most people that do get involved in drugs are because of like their friends and stuff, and their friends have gotten involved in drugs that have like older siblings, and they get into it, either the older siblings or the parents get them into it, and they see everyone else doing it.

Mr. HASTERT. Jerome, you talked about you were distributing drugs and kind of running an organization. Was that a gang?

JEROME. It was through a gang.

Mr. HASTERT. It was through a gang.

JEROME. It was through gang activity.

Mr. HASTERT. Is that one of the reasons you ended up in this area in the first place, to run that organization?

JEROME. I came here to go to school. I was recruited here to play football, and after my football career ended, things kind of got out of hand.

When you are young and you look at a football career, every young kid playing football thinks he is going to be a big-time athlete, and when that gets cut from you, I am not saying that that is a reason to do that, but I needed other things to do. I was already, quote/unquote, involved with small gang activities, and they knew that I knew a lot of people, so I was kind of used for that purpose. I mean, in the gang every person has a purpose, if you are not a soldier. I was not a soldier, I had a position, so my pur-

pose was to do other things like recruit and bring money to the organization.

Mr. HASTERT. Why don't you tell us for a minute, to give us some insight, what are the differences between soldiers and a person with a position.

JEROME. It's like an army; you have soldiers and the guys that go out and do the fighting or do the looting and the drive-bys, and then you have guys that tell them to do it, guys in the back, guys who recruit more gang members, to make the gang stronger.

Mr. HASTERT. What is the appeal—if somebody in a gang would go out and recruit, what is their appeal of young kids? I think they are pretty young when they start recruiting those kids to a gang. What is the appeal? What is the sales pitch?

JEROME. Well, a lot of the young kids, when activities are not present, they need something to do or something to be a part of, and the main thing is to get the energy. The energy of youth is misguided. If the energy was guided toward more positive things, it would be harder to recruit a kid.

For instance, if I was to go to a kid and he had a strong family background and was involved in things, he would be real hard to get. There is nothing I could tell him to get him to come to the dark side. But if the kid is dysfunctional and is from a dysfunctional family, I could easily get him. I could tell him that, "We are your family now. What do you want, money?" And that whole time, if you get them high, they are not thinking clearly anyway, so the rhetoric that I am giving them, it sounds even more enticing, because they are not thinking anyway.

Mr. HASTERT. One of the recruiting methods is to offer kids drugs.

JEROME. Well, no.

Mr. HASTERT. I misunderstood you then.

JEROME. What I am saying is, if the kid is high, it is more likely that he is not thinking clearly, so I have an even better chance at recruiting him, because once he makes the oath, once he comes down from the drugs, he has made the oath, so he is almost automatically in.

Mr. HASTERT. Let me ask you another thing. The function of the gang itself is a lot of the things that finance the gangs, the activities.

JEROME. Drugs usually finance the gangs.

Mr. HASTERT. So drugs are the financial arm of the gangs. A lot of the problems we see in some of our urban and suburban communities, even places like Aurora and Elgin, are fights between gangs. I mean, we hear there are turf battles. Is that really areas where they sell drugs? Is that part of the turf?

JEROME. If it was an area that more drug users will come by and buy the drugs, the rival gangs would try to take over the area, because the area, obviously, would be the money-making area.

If it was a building that a lot of people had drug problems in, drug sellers want to be in that building, because he has a lot of people that are consuming the drugs as product. So if a rival gang sees that the building is where all the drug users are going, you know, his team wants that, so that is where the battle begins.



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Mr. HASTERT. Ms. Maakestad, one of the things I wanted to ask you—and you have certainly been through the other side of this pain and problem. You may want to pull the mic over to answer. In retrospect, you have lost a son, kind of a unique situation, but it happens, unfortunately, more than it should in this country. If you saw and you could do things different or manage events differently, what would be the things to keep your son off the drugs and to actually, if he was on them, to make him whole again?

Ms. MAAKESTAD. I think if I would have had the education, maybe through schooling, or through the schools, or maybe outside education or something, more on the gangs and the drugs, I would have been able to recognize the signs and the symbols and all that, you know, that he was doing the drugs and that he was in the gangs.

Mr. HASTERT. You basically were unaware—what age did he get involved?

Ms. MAAKESTAD. I was told around 14 or 15.

Mr. HASTERT. And sometimes—I have had teenagers myself, and you really don't understand the changes they are going through, different personalities and stuff. You sense that that is what happened at that age and that you were really unaware his involvement in drugs was going on at that time.

Ms. MAAKESTAD. Yes, it was that strong, I didn't realize.

Mr. HASTERT. How did your son finance his use of drugs?

Ms. MAAKESTAD. Through the gangs.

Mr. HASTERT. Through the gangs. OK.

Mr. Povlsen, a couple things. I want to tell you, first of all, I appreciate your testimony, and I don't disagree with you; I think we need to have a balance, to look at the business side of this. There is a lot of money being made from drugs, and I think we need to make sure that those people who make billions of dollars from this business are taken out of the other end of the river, where people are falling and drowning as well.

But, I just want to tell you that just 10 days ago I was at the White House, and the President signed the bill called the 1997 Community Antidrug Coalitions Act, which is what you said—not a lot of Federal money. I don't think throwing money at problems is always a solution.

But the whole gist or focus of that act was to have organizations within the community come together if they needed a little help, some matching funds, to help them get a director or secretary or something. But they have to be in place, the funds have to be there, and there is a little help on the Federal side to help make that work. So I hope that is certainly in the focus of what you are talking about.

One of the things I wanted to address, when you are talking about communities setting goals, that those—sometimes the norms that you speak of—how do you change from inside out? Because I don't think it works outside in. How do you change the norms of a community or society? How would you change the norms of a DeKalb, IL?

Mr. POVLSEN. First of all, you have to get the people together, talking and look at hard issues, and that is why I said it starts at the top. I think we need to look at those things in our community

that made—and I just need to say something, that we are focusing a lot on drugs and gangs, and I think we need to focus on that, but I think if you look statistically, I think the most dangerous and destructive drugs we have in our society and if you walk into any high school, it is alcohol, and that's a tougher nut to crack. We have to look at our own societal norms that relate to that and the way we ourselves drink or we promote drinking or glamorize drinking.

So I just want to say that we don't lose sight of what is a—maybe not as glamorous and maybe is an intensive thing as looking at a gang-type drug deal, but going to the high school, we have Mr. Nakonechny here, and he can tell you—I hope he has a chance to speak—the most dangerous drugs we see at our high school is the alcohol use, and that is where we need to start. We need to start looking at our own homes and communities and our beer gardens in our community. We need to start looking at what our coaches and our teachers and our police officers and our politicians and things that every one of us do as a community leader, whether we are a Little League coach or whether we're a teacher, that every one of us have a responsibility in the community to mentor youth, to talk with youth, to set the standards, to set their own personal goals.

And, you know, the Little League coach, who goes out and Little Leagues does a good job and is seen at the corner tavern drinking in a blatant fashion, is not acceptable. That is a norm that we need to look at.

And so I think that that is where we need to start in the community. We need to start with us as individuals and not point the finger somewhere else and look at our own family use.

The one question you asked of Connie: What are the most influential things or what things would stop a child, a young person, from drinking? We held a youth forum here in DeKalb a few weeks ago, and the single most important factor that influenced the young people to stay off alcohol and other drinks was their parents. And I know that, as parents—I have children myself, you have children—we often don't think we have influence over our kids because they will fight us the whole way, but children will say it starts at home. The example you set and the norms you set in your home are what make me who I am today.

Mr. HASTERT. So part of this is communication. And, you know, I taught for 16 years, so I have a little bit of feeling about how kids communicate. You have families that, quote/unquote, sometimes are the ideal families, and the reality is that you also have families that are struggling to get along. Many are single-parent families, not the ideal, but it has become more the norm than the other situation.

So you think communication—not everybody is going to be the ideal, whatever that ideal is, in raising them or whatever. So how can communities support or help that? Is it just the dialog itself? Are there other ways you can reach kids, in your opinion?

Mr. POVLSEN. I think the communities need to do what they need to do, and there are different social services that can provide that, and I think we need to reach out of our own homes and reach down the street to that neighborhood and become aware of that single

mom or that child that is struggling or is out past curfew, help the neighbor, as the lady at the end said, "if I could have gotten some more education."

My guess is that there were other people that recognized that her son was having problems. We can't be afraid to step forward and try to help our neighbors out, network with each other as parents. One of the things that got me through to my teenagers, that are off on their own now, is that I would talk to the other parents and community leaders, I would not be afraid to go into the school and talk to the teacher. Communication is exactly it. We can't go into our own shell and lock our door and think of our kid as safe and then the community as safe. We need to be the parents, guardians, and mentors for our entire community.

Mr. HASTERT. Connie, what do you feel about parental support?

CONNIE. A lot of my friends were from single homes or single-family homes, or single-parent, and a lot of times their parents weren't around. So, you know, a lot of times they came to my house. They were at my house more than they were at home. Honestly, around my friends, I don't see the parents helping them out or anything or that they are really there for them.

Mr. HASTERT. A lot of parents were working, this type of thing.

CONNIE. Well, a lot of the parents went out, themselves.

Mr. HASTERT. I am going to turn the mic over to my colleague, but I would like to reserve and come back in the second round of questions.

Mr. MANZULLO. Thank you, Congressman Hastert.

The 1997 Community Antidrug Coalition Act was known in the House of Representatives as the Hastert-Portman Act, and I just want to commend Denny for the leadership.

We have a group of about eight Members of Congress that meet once a month, Wednesday at 8 a.m., and we met with so many people that are involved in all aspects of this plague on our young people. But if I recall, about 2 months ago, Denny, we had the generals and the admirals in charge of interdiction of drugs coming in from South America. It was quite interesting.

Mr. Povlsen, let me ask you a hypothetical question. For every 100 kids that are involved in drugs, how many come from two-parent households?

Mr. POVLSEN. Well, I think statistics show that only about half of the kids, to begin with, come from two-parent households, or very few.

The question was how many drug users would come from——

Mr. MANZULLO. No, no. For every 100 kids that become involved in drugs, how many come from two-parent households?

Mr. POVLSEN. I really don't have the answer to that question. I would think that—I would ask you a question back. Where are you wanting to go with that?

Mr. MANZULLO. Well, the reason I asked the question is that it is easy to make the assumption that one of the main reasons children are hung up on drugs is that they come from a, quote, dysfunctional family, and most people will translate dysfunctional family into a one-parent household.

Mr. POVLSEN. I would not say that is the key.

Mr. MANZULLO. OK. That is the question.

Mr. POVLSEN. And nowhere in my testimony did I say anything about one-parent households.

Mr. MANZULLO. All right. So the question really is, explain what is meant by a dysfunctional family.

Mr. POVLSEN. From my own perspective, a dysfunctional family, I think, is a family where there is little direction, there is little support, the parents are using drugs themselves or setting standards in the household that I think are not good ones for the community. That is what I would consider dysfunctional. It doesn't have anything to do with income, marital status——

Mr. MANZULLO. Or the number of parents.

Mr. POVLSEN. Or the number of parents in the household.

Mr. MANZULLO. I know that was a loaded question, but it was very critical to get that out, because there is such a misconception in the community that if a child is from a one-parent household, the chances are more likely that the child may get involved in drugs, and you don't agree with that assumption, do you?

Mr. POVLSEN. No.

Mr. MANZULLO. Neither do I.

Let me ask you a question, Pam. You have suffered the ultimate tragedy as a result of a child being involved in drugs. You said that if you had been able to tell the signs or to observe the signs of a child being pulled into drugs, that you might have been able to do something. What are the signs?

Ms. MAAKESTAD. To give you an example, I have a 26-year-old daughter who was about 15 when she went into Rose Crantz with a drug and alcohol problem, and we went through the same things that we did with Brent, with the treatment programs and all that kind of stuff.

Well, while we were going through this, we were getting information from Sheila about where they were getting their drugs, where they were getting their alcohol, and it happened that she was getting it from the school.

Mr. MANZULLO. What do you mean, from the school?

Ms. MAAKESTAD. From some man. I am not sure who it was, but there was a gentleman who would come to the back of the tennis courts and was selling them alcohol and drugs, and he would be there at a certain time every day and do whatever—you know, deal whatever to the kids, and they would do whatever, I assume whatever they had to, to get the drugs and the alcohol.

My daughter didn't have a lot of money. I know that, because we didn't have a lot of money. When I confronted the school about it, they said, "Oh, yes, we have been watching that problem for about 6 months now," and I said, "But why hasn't anything been done?" And so I called the police department, and within a couple of weeks the man was busted.

But they didn't have a clue. The school hadn't even communicated with them that they were even watching these people. And then the principal of that school also told my daughter, after she got out of treatment, that she may as well just quit school as soon as she turns 16 because she was a worthless piece of shit anyways, and that was the exact words. So, she did quit school, and she never did go back. She now has three children.

Mr. MANZULLO. So both of your children were hung up on drugs.

Ms. MAAKESTAD. I have three children. Connie is my daughter also.

Mr. MANZULLO. Oh, I didn't know that.

Well, Connie, let me ask you a question. You are how old now?

CONNIE. 18.

Mr. MANZULLO. What are the telltale signs? What did you do differently as a person who became introduced to drugs that parents should look at?

CONNIE. I watched my brother and sister, and I seen what happened to them, how the drugs messed them up, and I didn't want to be like that, so I stayed away from it.

Mr. MANZULLO. And, Jerome, you are a very interesting person, and I appreciate you coming here to share your testimony this morning. Children get pulled into gangs, regardless of social, economic background; is that correct?

JEROME. Sure.

Mr. MANZULLO. Tell me what you have seen in terms of the background of the children.

JEROME. You get a lot of kids from the suburbs that will come to the city just to see the life-style that they see on TV. They see it on TV, and they think this has got to be cool because it is on TV. So you get a lot of suburban kids that come out of the city, and those are the easiest prey. You can almost make them do almost anything, because they are trying to fit and trying to glamorize anything they say on TV anyways.

So if I knew a group of kids that were coming from afar just to hang out in the, quote/unquote, hood, that is it, you could get them to do anything, you know.

Mr. MANZULLO. These were suburban kids coming to the city.

JEROME. Just to see that type of life-style that they see on TV.

Mr. MANZULLO. How old are the kids?

JEROME. As young as 12 or 13.

Mr. MANZULLO. How are they getting there? Are the parents taking them there?

JEROME. By car. 15-year-olds, 16-year-olds, 17-year-olds have a license, drive to the city, want to hang out in the projects, just to see what it is about.

Mr. MANZULLO. A lot of that goes on?

JEROME. A lot of it goes on because of the way the media covers what happens in the "hood."

Mr. HASTERT. I just want to followup. Some of the movies, people go to the movies and see the "hood" and all this stuff. Is that kind of pushing them?

JEROME. That is exactly what will do it.

Mr. MANZULLO. A question to you, Jerome, or you, Mr. Povlsen: What movies? Name them. What movies are detrimental to the children in getting kids hooked on drugs? You mentioned the entertainment industry. Let's mention them by name here.

Mr. POVLSEN. Well, I am not going to mention them by name, because I choose not to go to them.

Mr. MANZULLO. The reason I ask the question is, one of the purposes of the hearing is so that parents can be more aware of what is out there. The movie producers are doing things to get our kids on drugs. If you don't mind, let's name them. Otherwise, how are

people supposed to know? It is a generic answer. I do not want to put you on the spot.

Mr. POVLSEN. Well, I can't think of any off the top of my head, but any movie where you see violence and cigarette smoking. I guarantee you will not see a movie where you don't see cigarette smoking, and cigarette smoking and alcohol are the gateway to other drugs, and it is glamorized. It is being paid for by the tobacco industry; it is being paid for by the liquor industries.

Movies have violence, cigarette smoking, gangs, and it is all the glamorization. You walk into the "hood," and people get blown away, and at the end you see the excitement of it and the glamour of it and not the trauma of it that this poor lady at the end here had to deal with, and that is an industry that we are not willing to tackle.

Mr. MANZULLO. Connie, do you agree with that statement?

CONNIE. In some ways.

Mr. MANZULLO. Well, tell me which ways you agree, because alcohol and tobacco are not going to be illegal, at least at this point. Drugs are illegal.

Mr. MANZULLO. I don't think cigarettes and alcohol are the gateways—maybe alcohol. I know a lot of people who smoke that don't get into drugs. I don't feel that is a gateway to drugs.

Mr. MANZULLO. Jerome, do you agree with the statement or disagree with the statement?

JEROME. I can't say that. I just think the key is to have preventive measures, regardless of what they see, as far as drinking and smoking. If they have preventive measures, I think a lot of them will make the right choices. It is the other things, besides the cigarette smoking and drinking, that are attracting the kids. I know that for a fact.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Povlsen is coming from a much broader perspective.

How many kids have you dealt with?

Mr. POVLSEN. Hundreds over the last 25 years.

Mr. MANZULLO. And these are observations that you have made based upon what the kids tell you, so you have a lot of inside information to which we are not privy.

When kids see people drinking on television, that encourages them to drink or not to drink? What does it do?

Mr. POVLSEN. It is such a subtle—if you ask a kid, "Did you start drinking because of a movie you saw?" they will say no. But it gets back to the entire social norm. You can't tell me an 11-year-old kid who is sneaking a cigarette, doing something illegal, that is exciting, enticing, something he shouldn't be doing, doesn't lead to the next step of trying to get the beer and then trying to get the whatever up the road.

The entertainment industry and what they see their parents doing are what is an acceptable thing to do. It's so subtle and so long—so much over a long period of time that it is not any one single incident that creates that.

Mr. HASTERT. So what you are actually saying is that in your open illustration—is that every society should pull the people out that are drowning, and we do that, and it is very expensive, and treatment is expensive, recidivism is very high. Basically what you

are saying is, you have to go up river anyway and stop people from falling in, and you put up the fences, you put up the gates, you put up the detours so people don't fall in the river and drown in the first place. Is that what you are really saying?

Mr. POVLSEN. Yes, absolutely, and sometimes building the fences forces us to look in our own pocketbooks and our own behaviors, and that is what we don't want to look at. It is easier to pull and label the individual who happened to fall in or was pushed in.

Mr. HASTERT. Congressman, we are going to come back for a second round. At this time, I would like to have Mr. Coghlan introduce another witness. I understand this witness has been involved in gangs in another life and is now working in faith-based operations to try to keep kids from getting involved.

Give us a little introduction, and we would like to hear your testimony.

Mr. COGHLAN. Mr. Smith is here today, and he helps perform a very helpful function in the DeKalb area to reaching out to individuals around the seventh and eighth grades. He has done a lot for the community, from organizing basketball and church events to this father's program, and Mr. Smith also has familiarity with the street gangs from the city of Chicago, and he sees the cycles they have gone through in the city of Chicago from perhaps 30 years ago, and he also has a good idea of what is occurring here locally in the DeKalb and Sycamore areas.

Mr. Smith.

Mr. HASTERT. We welcome you as well.

DERRICK. Like I said, I am Derrick Smith and I have been in DeKalb since 1972. I came to DeKalb from Chicago, and when I was growing up in Chicago, I was telling Mike that I was involved in gang activity, drug activity, of which I came up here to DeKalb and brought some of that activity with me.

But in 1977, I got my life back together and turned things around, and so right now my crusade is to try to help individuals that are falling under the same umbrella that I was in and to come out of it. And what I wanted to do for most of the kids, I am trying to show them a good side as well as a bad side of the city, because I grew up in the projects in Chicago.

When you see 75 percent of the good of drug use and being involved in gangs, and 25 percent of, you know, what is not good, you end up taking that 75 percent. But if I can show them 50 percent of what is good, things you can do with an education, things you can do with somebody as a mentor, because I found out the best thing we have done so far in DeKalb County with the young people is our mentoring program, because we found a lot of parents coming back to school in DeKalb and a lot of parents trying to get out of Chicago and other urban areas to try to find a better place for the kids.

And you find a lot of single parents, and you find a lot of young people who are just not involved in positive things that they want to get involved with here in DeKalb. And I don't think DeKalb at the time was ready, because I look at the school system, and you have in DeKalb and you had—we had one black teacher now that they hired for the fall, and one of the mentor programs that we started was seventh and eighth graders, because we were having

a lot of problems with the African American males in the seventh and eighth grade Hunter Middle School.

So we went ahead and observed what was going on, and we saw a lot of teachers just didn't understand, because it is a different culture and they weren't experienced in dealing with African Americans. So we came in and tried to help them make the transition and tried to help young people make the transition too. And we found out through our efforts that the teachers were more willing to help students with special needs and students were more willing to listen to what the teachers were saying.

So with that group we had there, we targeted eight students, but we had maybe 20, and we ended up—with the help of Mr. Rodriguez, the principal at Hunter Middle School, we developed a relationship with their school and with those young people, and it was a positive relationship, because I think at the seventh- and eighth-grade level is the level you have to look at. That is the group that is looking. They don't know what they want to do.

And if you have someone come in showing fast money and with the current situation you have, currently, economically, where I was growing up, we had jobs they had for the summer, but through different Presidents that came through, that took a lot of the youth programs and a lot of the youth summer jobs and just kind of left young people out there.

So what we are trying to do is give them something to do. And I think the idle time is what really kills them, and so the time we try to give them something positive to do, it takes care of the idle time and it develops a relationship where they could see some positivity with older African males and make them a positive asset as far as in the community.

[The prepared statement of Derrick follows:]

Testimony submitted to: Government Reform and Oversight Committee
Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs
And Criminal Justice

Testimony submitted by: Derrick William-Smith

Thirty years ago I was involved with drug dealers and drug users in Chicago. I saw the cycles of casual marijuana use turn into cocaine and heroine addiction. I also saw a lot of people say no to pot, even though others around them were using drugs.

Today I work with more than 100 young people in the DeKalb area. Most of them are near the danger zone of drug use. Some of their parents are addicted to cocaine or abuse alcohol. From my contact with these young people in DeKalb I learn about the drug use that's happening in this community.

I have seen drug dealers as young as 14 and 15 years old in DeKalb. I have talked to 5 local high school-aged athletes who told me about their use of weed (marijuana), mushrooms (hallucinogens), and alcohol. I talked to some of the drug dealers in DeKalb.

Some of the kids tell me that pot is O.K. to use. They don't understand that they're opening Pandora's box when they start using pot. They don't see the problems that can occur.

In the DeKalb area pot is often sold by dealers with street gang connections. Stepping into the world of pot brings the young person closer to cocaine, acid, gangs, crime, drug addiction and jail. I have seen this cycle happen itself with some people in DeKalb.

I have also seen young people in DeKalb move away from drugs when caring adults have spent time with them and told them "Drugs are not tolerated here."

In DeKalb there are church programs, sports programs and job opportunities that have helped kids stay away from drugs.

Some police have helped reduce drug use in DeKalb by getting to know the young people who may use illegal drugs.

I have a lot of experience and information relating to drugs and keeping kids away from drugs. I'm available to answer questions you may have.

_____ (Derrick)

Mr. HASTERT. Let me ask you, you came out to DeKalb in 1972. Did you come out here just to organize a gang, or did you come out here because you are an athlete, or what happened?

DERRICK. I came out because I was in school and I was an athlete.

Mr. HASTERT. So let's go down to what you are doing now. You are working with—basically, churches, basically faith-based organizations—and the success rate you had with the kids is not just teaching them or mentoring them, but also giving them something else as a replacement that drugs gave them before; is that right?

DERRICK. Right.

Mr. HASTERT. How does that work?

DERRICK. It works very well. We have men from our Men's Club and we bring the young guys in. Like we had a grant from DCFS for positive youth development. It was a grant for $5,000 for 3 years, which—unfortunately, it ran out.

But we would have self-esteem workshops at a hotel where we would take 25 young guys from fifth grade to eighth grade to the hotel, and most had never been to a hotel, and so this was something outstanding to them. And at the hotel we would have eight men from the Men's Club, somebody that was—had a professionalism in health. We would teach them health, we would go into gang prevention, we would go into drug prevention, we would go into all the parts of education, young fathers, sex education, and we would have various topics on the subjects, and we would discuss them thoroughly for 2 days like—the young men, and we tried to find out where their heads were.

Through that relationship, that is where we began a relationship where if something was going wrong, like say we have a basketball team and one of the guys on the basketball team was using drugs or he knew somebody that was using drugs, one of the players, that got to the point where we developed a relationship, where they had so much faith in it, they would tell us, you know, Mr. Smith, you need to talk to so-and-so; because I think he is involved with drugs, or he is hanging out with so-and-so; or he might be involved with gang activities. And with my counseling background, I would talk to individuals and see where their head was, and I would sit down; and for the most part, we would do free counseling sessions with the individuals, and if it meant bringing in the family, we would do that too.

Mr. HASTERT. It was pretty successful?

DERRICK. Very successful.

Mr. HASTERT. Jerome was talking to us a little bit and he came to DeKalb under the same circumstances you did, his career was over and he had a void in his life and some involvement with drugs—not with drugs, but with gangs, and you were kind of on a parallel track, right? Were you involved, when you were in Chicago, in a gang?

DERRICK. Right.

Mr. HASTERT. Then you came out here and did you recruit a gang here?

DERRICK. When I first came out here, I didn't really recruit. I was recruiting guys to sell drugs for me, but for the most part,

guys who were in the gang I was in, they would come up on the weekends really.

Mr. HASTERT. They recruited people to sell drugs?

DERRICK. Right.

Mr. HASTERT. Was that part of the gang?

DERRICK. They didn't necessarily have to be in a gang. Basically, at that time, I just wanted to make some money.

Mr. HASTERT. When you sold drugs on the streets, wherever, in DeKalb and DeKalb County, was it any different than selling drugs in Chicago?

DERRICK. It was basically different because I don't think the police were aware, as aware as the police in Chicago if you were selling drugs or doing anything like that, because we would almost say, you go to DeKalb, you don't have to worry about getting busted because the police there don't really know what is going on.

Mr. HASTERT. Has that changed?

DERRICK. Yes.

Mr. HASTERT. I just want to set the record straight.

DERRICK. That was 1972, and now we are looking at 1997, so, you know, it has been a big change.

Mr. HASTERT. From your experience being involved in a gang and selling it, now trying to be on the other end of this, what has happened? Are the prices of drugs on the streets in DeKalb County different from the prices of drugs on the street in Chicago?

DERRICK. Yes.

Mr. HASTERT. Much? Higher or cheaper?

DERRICK. For the most part, cheaper.

Mr. HASTERT. Why?

DERRICK. Because you have a college town and most of the time, you have a college town, you get a better discount than you would get if you were selling drugs in Chicago.

Mr. HASTERT. That is informational and interesting.

Let me ask you also, have the drugs changed? Has the purity level, prices in the last 10 years, have they gone up? Have they gone down? What have you seen? The reason I ask this is, our information tells us, cocaine—especially where cocaine, sometimes cut down; if it was 30 to 40 percent pure, today it is 90 percent pure and prices used to be higher—it is cheaper.

Is that true, not true, in your experience?

DERRICK. I would think it is more potent now. I think about the last 3 or 4 years, you see more potent drugs on the street, because there was a time, especially during the 1980's, where the quality was really slipping and you had less drug usage, but from the time of about, say, 1991 or since the 1990's, it seems like drugs, somehow they are more potent.

Mr. HASTERT. Jerome, do you want to put your insight into the same question?

JEROME. I think what makes it more potent is by there being so many drug users now and drug dealers, they chop it up and put so many different drugs on it to make it stronger. I think the purity of it is lower now, but when people cut it and put the drugs on it to expand it, that is what makes the drug even more dangerous than it already is.

For instance, blunt, when they take the blunt, empty the blunt out of the cigar and put the marijuana in it, you have people who sprinkle crack cocaine on top of it to make the blunt even stronger. So the mixture of all the drugs is what is making the drugs stronger.

I don't think it is the purity of it. I'm positive.

Mr. HASTERT. At least what the DEA tells us, I think the purity is higher.

JEROME. I think they chop it up so much now because there are so many drug dealers and users, everybody wants to be known to have the best drugs; so they put anything on it to make it stronger, rat poisoning, PCP, anything.

Mr. HASTERT. So there is heroin on the blunt, marijuana stuff as well.

JEROME. Heroin, cocaine, whatever, just to make it stronger.

Mr. HASTERT. Mike, in your experience as States Attorney here, what are the most effective things, in your view, that were done to try to turn things around?

Mr. COGHLAN. I think a police officer, for example, speaking directly to a drug-using individual in a respectful manner would help that person free themselves from drug use. I encounter a lot of individuals as witnesses on cases, and it was actually a pleasure to deal with the individuals. They were doing good community service, even though they had been criminally involved in the past and even though they had been involved with drugs or drug dealing in the past.

To answer your question briefly, to get in to know personally the individuals who are referred to as the drug dealers, I call them human beings temporarily involved in the habit of selling drugs, soon to be extricated by our helping hand. It's a different perspective, but that is what I see actually works, because it is our children that are selling drugs.

These are human beings like these very helpful individuals here with me at the table today; and the "us versus them" mentality can be overcome on the local level, when, like a lot of very fine DeKalb police officers do—and these individuals at the table will tell you, when they stop them, even though they are going to arrest them for a small quantity, for possession of a drug, they will say, did you see the Bulls game last night, how are things at home, and they will engage them in a conversation.

Community policing, I suppose, would be the general term for it. And that is what I have seen, and that is why these individuals have been kind enough to come and share some extremely important firsthand information on the local level, the front lines, people getting to know the individuals who are selling the drugs. That is what I have seen as the most beneficial in helping people move away from drug activity.

Mr. HASTERT. Let me go back and ask you two individuals a followup question.

If you go into a community and you know that community is going to be tough on gangs and drug dealers, can you overcome that as a gang leader, a recruiter, or would you stay out of that territory?

DERRICK. That depends. You probably would try it and see what happens, and if you had a negative reaction, you would probably take what you had and move to the next town.

Mr. HASTERT. Jerome.

JEROME. I agree with the same thing. It is tough to crack.

Mr. HASTERT. Both of you gentlemen are still in this community. Now you are working with the youth, certainly in different ways—you in a faith-based organization and you talk about talking with kids and working with kids. Both of you are former athletes, and I am sure you both have keys into certain groups of people.

I coached for 16 years, so I understand the ability to do that.

What is the best message that you have for kids today, either to turn their life around or stay away from it?

Derrick.

DERRICK. You said the best message?

Mr. HASTERT. Yes. How are you going to persuade a kid not to get into drugs?

DERRICK. First, I think you tell them, you know, you don't need to be involved with drugs. I think you have to develop a relationship where they believe in you, where they have faith in you, and you have done something that they see that they can really trust you. And I think that comes from the love that you have for those individuals, and they feel the love you have for them; and then they are more apt to listen and do the things you say.

Because you can talk all day, but if they feel like you are not in their corner, it doesn't matter what you say. If they feel you are in their corner, if this person is saying something that helps me, that makes a difference, because I've picked up young guys at 3 or 4 a.m., and taken them home, you know, 14- and 15-year-olds and waited until they went into their home. And when they see me, like a lot of them might have their hat banging from one side or the other, you know, representing a gang; and if they see me, they turn their hats straight and say, how are you doing, Mr. Smith, how are you doing, Coach Smith, and that shows me the respect they have for me as an individual.

And what I have been saying to them is hitting home because they know what they are doing wrong and they know, in my sight, they can't do what they want to do. This way, it tends to make them say—you know, if you see a drug dealer, and you say, he has a car, he has all this, he has it made; but here is Mr. Smith doing all this in the community, and he seems to have it made, too, and this is somebody I would rather be than a drug dealer.

Mr. HASTERT. Jerome, can you enlighten us a little bit in that area?

JEROME. The best thing I can see is each individual to take light of himself. The best thing I can do to help a kid is to change myself; if I get myself together, and a kid sees I was doing this and now I am making an attempt to change or straighten my life out, because you can't look back.

So the best thing I can do is, get myself together, and the kids see that I am going in the right direction, obviously the ones that will look up to me, that still do look up to me, when I was in those activities, look at me in a different light, and they like to take the same road that I am taking. So my thing is that each individual

makes a change within themself, makes a positive change within themself, and the people that are around you all the time will feed off of that.

I think the young kids that look up to me or like to hang around me, because of what position I had when I was banging, will see now I am doing something positive, that now they can do the same thing, and that is to lead by example.

Mr. HASTERT. Congressman Manzullo.

Mr. MANZULLO. What turned your life around?

DERRICK. It was a spiritual enlightenment. A lot of guys ask, did you go to rehab and do this and do that; and I say, no, I didn't, because I had both parents at home, and I was raised, and it was church every Sunday and, you know, different things like that, of which I kind of fell off.

But I was at a drug house, and they called it a shooting gallery because at that time I was shooting heroin; and when I was—I was high on drugs at the time, and I had this, it was like a dream where I was high, and it was like I saw this lady, it was something by a bed, and I was walking through a cloud and when I got through the cloud, I looked down and the person looked up and it was a woman, like she was praying by a bed, or kneeling by a bed. And when she looked up, she smiled, and it was my mother, and through that, it seemed like everything started coming to me. I saw my grandmother and I saw everybody who really cared about me at that time, and when I came out and opened my eyes, I wasn't even high anymore; and when I got up, I was with three or four other guys, and I told them I had to go.

So I ran all the way home, like 12 blocks back home, and I told my mom, I feel I have to go back to DeKalb, because I had a partner in DeKalb. I said that is the only way I can save myself. So she gave me money, put me on the bus, sent me to DeKalb.

My partner picked me up, and for 3 days I was cold turkey, and he would sit there and read the Bible to me, because I was telling him I have to go back, I was sick, and he kept saying, just stay down, just lie down. And for 3 days he read the Bible to me, and when I woke up, I wasn't high any more, my stomach wasn't hurting any more and from that time on, I made a pledge to God. I said, if you can keep me straight like this, I guarantee I will never put another needle in my arm, and I haven't. So for him to spare my life like that, I give my life to the young people, especially this community.

Mr. MANZULLO. Three days of pretty effective treatment, I would say.

Mr. MANZULLO. Connie, what gives young people hope today?

CONNIE. I like seeing other people that have gone through the drugs, how they changed their life around and stuff. But like there are not that many out there. I mean, there are people out there like these guys that are trying to help the kids, but then there are a lot of people that don't. So there is not much out there that does give the kids hope.

Mr. MANZULLO. There was an interesting article that appeared in the Washington Post, April 19, 1993, by Sarah Blumenthal, writing about the death of Kurt Cobain, the rock star, who at first tried to overdose and then he killed himself with a shotgun a week later;

and she was interviewing two young people, and one of the people she interviewed was a young man working two jobs who said, every day I wake up angry, life has no core. As I read that article—and I have talked to a lot of young people who come by my office, and I ask them the same question, what gives them hope; because if you have no hope, there is no vision and there is no reason for living.

Let me go back to the movies. Let me give some names here; we have a little congressional immunity: "Trainspotting" glamorized heroin; "Big City, Bright Lights," glamorized cocaine. Many of the John Belushi movies, until he died by a cocaine overdose himself, and a lot of the Richard Pryor movies, until he was nearly killed when he was freebasing cocaine—when the movies come out, do you do anything about it? Do you put out a press release?

I know the risk is that more kids will go and see them, so you really don't know what to do in that circumstance, do you?

Mr. POVLSEN. I think we, as a community, have to be more active; and there are groups out there that do do that, that do write letters, that do try to have TV ratings, et cetera. But I think what we need to do from a personal use is look at those, not support those, not let our children go to those, do what we can at a local level to make sure we in a capitalistic society don't support those kind of things. It is back to the individual responsibility.

Mr. MANZULLO. It is—but it is not working, is it?

Mr. POVLSEN. That is because—I mean, if we were to go around this room and look at our own individual commitments, and really get down to the bottom line, we may not see what we want to see or need to see for this community and this Nation to turn around. I think what we are hearing here are things that are very important. I think the individual work with the individual youth to turn around individual people is vital, and I do that in some of the work I do in the student-to-student program through the high school here. And I have to say that if I had a choice between the work I do with the individuals or the work I do with the community, the work I do with the individuals is more rewarding because I can see a kid who was an eighth grader, who was drunk on his front porch while he was baby-sitting, turn around with a college degree now and come back and say, Kris, if it wasn't for your program, I wouldn't be where I am.

But at the same time, we need to also look at the bigger community issues and that is writing our Congressmen, that is doing what we can to get people to not go to the movies, mentoring our neighborhood youth, whatever it is in our own local communities.

Mr. HASTERT. Thanks, Don.

One issue, Derrick, that you brought out, in your view, that drugs were less potent in the 1980's and got more potent in the 1990's—and I want to kind of make a general statement on this thing. In our work, we found—to lead into the next panel—this is a balanced effort and I think there are six things this country has to do, six energies that we have to expend ourselves in.

In the 1990's, or 1980's, we did a little tougher job on stopping drugs coming in. We gave the Coast Guard access and interdiction access to stop drugs; and during that period of time, drugs weren't as potent, that is what the statistics tell us, and we cut a lot of

that. The Drug Czar's office was cut back in 1992, almost 500 people to 25 people, and we lost a lot of the effort, and drugs became a little bit of a more emphasized problem.

But I think there are six things, and we need to do this. It starts at the White House and in Congress and right down the line, and we need to work together; and I think we are trying to do that—the Drug Czar or whoever you might be.

I think, first of all, you need to be in the communities, and that is why the Drug Free Community Act was an important piece. People have to start at home, working together.

The other area is, you have to treat the people who fell into the water and they are drowning. The treatment programs have to be there, and we need to find out what the treatment programs, No. 2, work best, and then try to emulate those. We find out a lot of the treatment programs have 80 percent recidivism; that is not good, and I am not sure that is money wisely spent. How do you best focus those funds?

The third area—and the next panel we are going to have, they put people in a different line, fighting this war, and that is law enforcement. A lot of people spend days in and days out working on this and they are dedicated to doing that. We need to make sure the right resources are there to stop the stuff in our communities and to stop it from getting into our communities. And it is not just the local police or county police or the State police; it is also the DEA and the other people. We find that sometimes intelligence, finding out where the stuff comes from, who is doing it, and 90 percent of the success in being able to stop in the next two areas I am talking about, comes from intelligence, being able to find out where this stuff is.

The other area is interdiction. We can do a better job on the Federal side. We have—on the borders of Texas, we have the DEA, the INS, we have Immigration, we have Customs, we have the Border Patrol, all these independent agencies out there, but not very much coordination. If you are a Customs agent, you can bid for a job and be on the border for 20 years of your career, have your brother-in-law come across the border, and it just opens the way for corruption; and we need to do a better job in our own government in making sure we stop the stuff from coming into our country.

And the same with the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard can't do everything on a low budget. We need to make sure they have the ability. There are 10,000 boats, as we speak, moving through the eastern and western Caribbean and coming up the Pacific, many of them with significant cargoes of drugs. They need to do a better job, and we need to make sure that we coordinate.

So the other, fifth area is the countries themselves. We found that the guy who was so remote and so far away from us that we would probably never read about him, the guy who was the President of Peru, a guy named Fujimori, happened to be in the headlines because of the embassy being taken over in Lima, but he has a policy in Peru that is working, a shoot-down policy. And people that loaded up planes, about 70 planes 2 years ago, a month, they are loaded up with 100 or 200 kilos of cocaine—and it is what people could afford to buy—to load the planes up and at that time you could buy a kilo of cocaine in the Upper Huallaga Valley in Peru

for about $400 a kilo. You move it to Colombia, you remanufacture it into crack or cocaine, and there it is worth about $2,000 a kilo, and then you move that up to Mexico, and Mexico, across the border into this country and it can be worth $20- to $30,000 a kilo, so there is added value all the way you go through it.

But what they did in the shoot-down policy, they started tracking the planes, doing the radar and finding out what planes, through intelligence, were carrying cocaine up, and the coca paste. When they started to shoot those planes down, they give them a warning, they ask them to land and if they didn't land, they tried evasive tactics.

It was a good feeling. They were doing something wrong, and they shot them down; they shot down 43 planes. Today there are 7 planes a month going up instead of 70 planes.

The cost of a pilot was $25,000, now it is $250,000; people won't do it unless they get a lot of money, and instead of flying up, they are flying through Brazil and all over. So what has happened is the supply of raw coca paste in Peru has gone up because they can't get it out of the place. The price of coca paste has gone from $400 a kilo to less than $100 a kilo.

The farmers who grow this stuff, they strip the leaves and put it through a process and get a paste; it is a messy business. They cut the stuff and they separate it and it is the messiest stuff you ever saw; and to think people actually use it. Beyond that, they have the stuff sitting there, they can't sell it, so farmers are walking away from growing it.

Last year they cut the ability to grow it 19 percent, this year they think they are going to cut it down 25 percent, and that is where 70 percent of where all our drugs come from.

So, there are a lot of coordinating things we have to be able to do to stop drugs in this country but I think one of the most important things is something we never talked about; it is the way we launder the money. Some drugs come up from Colombia actually in cargo containers. You can't stuff the money that you get on the street corners—the $5, $10, $20, $50 bills, $100 bills—back in the containers the drugs come in, the volume of the money is for more than the buying of the drugs, and that is how they get the money back to Colombia. If you can't get the money back to Colombia, if you can't do it through wires or the money laundering or the bank systems, there is no impetus for the guys to grow it, to smuggle it, to sell it, refine it.

So all those things work together, and it is a commitment from some of us in Congress, most of us in Congress, to stop it and make sure all six things are working together. But the most important is back at home, the demand site; and we have a big, big job.

And Mr. Povlsen, you talked about the community responsibility. It is huge, and it is a responsibility that a lot of us like to look the other way and not think about and not take that on; and I appreciate everybody being here today, and some of you have been through very personal tragedies and some have been in situations where you turned your life around and some have been working at this thing for a long time. We appreciate all of you being here today and your contribution to this, and we look forward to the next panel.

Mr. HASTERT. At this time, I would like to introduce our second panel. First of all, John Nakonechny—I think that is pretty close to how you pronounce your name—is a prevention and wellness coordinator for the DeKalb School District; Michael Haines is coordinator of health enhancement services here at Northern Illinois University; Tim Johnson is the current DeKalb States attorney; Dick Randall is the sheriff for Kendall County, and has been involved very much in Operation North Star; and Bob Miller is the founder of the Just Say No to Drugs parade in Dixon, IL.

Here is a situation where there is a community—Dixon is west of here, about 40 miles or so—where a community and a fellow in that community just said, it is time to do something, and they have a Just Say No parade. We need to get the idea on how that works and what effect that has.

I think everybody is here, except Mr. Miller, at the table. Again, I am going to ask that you stand and raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Let the record show the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Nakonechny. Is that right?

Mr. NAKONECHNY. Just say Nak.

Mr. HASTERT. Nak, OK.

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I am not going to read anything.

Mr. HASTERT. Let me say, if you have a written statement, we will just provide it in the record and we look forward to your testimony.

**STATEMENTS OF JOHN NAKONECHNY, PREVENTION AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR, DeKALB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 428; MICHAEL HAINES, COORDINATOR OF HEALTH ENHANCEMENT SERVICES, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY; TIM JOHNSON, DeKALB STATES ATTORNEY; RICHARD A. RANDALL, SHERIFF, KENDALL COUNTY, IL; AND BOB MILLER, JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS PARADE, LEE COUNTY, IL**

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I will just summarize ways as a crossover from what has been said previously by Mr. Povlsen and others, and Mike Coghlan, but essentially where we stand in DeKalb schools is the old, hackneyed cliche of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, which we have been saying here for the most part.

Let me get into the substance of what we are doing in the DeKalb schools trying to combat the violence, drugs and alcohol. We do it on four fronts: schools of students, staff development, parents, and community. Within the schools of students, we have, since about 1986, when we started a drug and alcohol prevention program, we have adopted a curriculum, K through 12, which is very, very important.

Recently, you heard some attacks on D.A.R.E., for instance, that the long-term effects and longevity of D.A.R.E. is not there. That is no indictment of the D.A.R.E. program because it is probably—it is a very good program; I know what it entails, but that is why you have a K–12 program, to followup and support D.A.R.E. and support all the other programs.

One of the messages I hear over and over and over again is, we heard about the advertising industry and everything else, one thing

we try to emphasize very heavily is this war, if you can call it that, against substance abuse is something that has to be repeated over and over and over. I don't think there is a person in this room, perhaps, unless you have an IQ of 200, gets something the first time. It is a war that goes on and on and has to be repeated over; and in essence that is what our curriculum is doing, year in and year out.

Hopefully, each teacher is teaching the curriculum, K through 12. Our curriculum puts emphasis on self-esteem, on knowledge and refusal skills. One of the things we know now is Just Say No doesn't work; you have to teach kids how to say no with refusal skills.

We also publish a newsletter as often as we can with the financial resources that we have, and that continuously inflicts knowledge on students, K through 12, as well as their parents.

We provide activities for kids, such as the National Red Ribbon Week. We provide DUI Day to talk about the effects of drinking and driving, for instance, as well as we perform skits; we actually have kids in our theater group go to fourth graders. And again, as we talked about before; we actually attack tobacco at that level because we know it is down in the fourth grade when kids are experimenting, especially with tobacco.

We run the I–Say survey. I have a copy here if somebody would like it; I brought one or two copies with me. You are more than welcome to look at it. We only use that survey as a barometer, as a gauge, to tell us where we are going and what is happening. We don't use it in each statistic. It seems to match with the previous person who said that perhaps she knew 300 kids using marijuana; that is just about right, if it is 40 percent, 40 percent of 700 kids in the survey is 280 kids, so that reflects fairly well of what is happening.

As far as the schools go, with the limited time we have, we have a Discipline Committee. In the last 5 or 6 years we have really tightened up procedures and policies against drugs and alcohol, as well as touching on dress code a little bit, in terms of gang activities; and I would say, in essence, it is a "tough love" approach to the entire process, as well as a zero tolerance.

Finally, we have also—within our schools, we have tightened up our security. Some schools even have cameras; we do not have cameras. We do have a liaison police officer now in conjunction with the DeKalb Police Department, who spends time at our middle schools and our high school—and it is a sad day, but it is here—and we do have a police officer at the school, as well as security aids and a person who takes care of—well, just in essence, security matters; and we try to keep a good tab of what goes on in the parking lot.

In terms of staff development, we, I, my office offers a lot of workshops for teachers, and we send people out and wherever we can find something on peer mediation, conflict resolution, drugs and alcohol, gang activity seminars, we try to encourage people to go.

One of the things we try very hard to do is to have teachers understand this problem is never going to be solved unless we teach it across the curriculum. The P.E. teacher can't do it alone, the

health teacher can't do it alone; it has to be the English teacher, the math teacher, the history teacher, the wrestling coach, right across the whole spectrum of the school building, K through 12.

As far as parents are concerned, we work very hard to provide information, as well as a monthly newsletter to parents. Principals are more than willing to put it as part of their newsletter to parents. We also try to invite parents into our school system. That is another very difficult thing to do, getting parents into schools is a very tough situation; but they do serve on such things as our district-wide Discipline Committee, which I serve on, they serve on what we call a CAC, Citizens Action Committee, the advisory committee that deals with the schools, and they look at a broad spectrum of things from gifted programs, to drugs and alcohol, to violence and gang activity, and we openly encourage parents with Drug Free money and things like that; if they so wish to participate in workshops that we hold, they are more than welcome to do that.

Finally, within the community, I have worked very closely with Kris Povlsen, the other 10 schools in this county, and Mike Coghlan, when he was States Attorney, with DCP/SAFE, DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment—it is the coalition you were talking about earlier—and we have even gone to the extent we now have student representation on DCP/SAFE. It has been very productive.

We have a long way to go probably.

Yes, you can read about somebody rolling a joint, in the Chronicle, in the classroom but you can also roll a joint during a church service, too, or a court of law; those things do happen. My only problem with that is, it gets highlighted as if to seem we are not doing anything, and that is just not true.

One thing we try to do over and over, whether you read the survey—and I know you don't have the entire survey—whether you read about it or hear about our activities, we emphasized, just recently, in the last 2 or 3 years, that not all kids are doing that. When you say 40 percent of the kids are involved in marijuana, if you break that down, you find out that out of that 40 percent, that is 100 kids, 12 are experimenting with it for the first or second time; and it is probably about 26 percent of high school kids using it on a weekend basis, perhaps on a monthly basis. You go to our full 6–12 survey on that, you will find out it breaks down to about 15 percent.

We can always improve, and so I will leave it at that.

I would just like to say one other thing. I have been in the game for 29 years now, being a teacher, and I have been at this job for about 6 years. I still teach in the mornings—American history, advanced American history, the history of Vietnam—and over the years, I have to tell you, you hear this question, what is wrong with kids today? I don't think there is anything wrong with kids today. I think 97 percent of the kids—and that is an arbitrary number—in 1972 were good kids; and I still think 97 percent, 95 percent of the kids in 1997 are really good kids.

What we have is a problem with about 3 or 4 percent who are now a criminal element. Back then it was bubble gum, swearing, cutting class, a few other things; those things still happen, but we

have another element that I am not so sure we are well equipped to deal with, and that seems to be the problem.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Haines, you are doing the same thing only at a different age level. So why don't you tell us what we are doing here.

Mr. HAINES. Before I start, if I can get someone to get the overhead. I have a couple overheads that illustrate the point.

Mr. HASTERT. Do you want to go ahead and let them set that up?

Mr. HAINES. I could make some of the remarks while they are setting that up.

I have been working in the substance abuse field since 1970; and I am a certified supervisor of addiction counselors, besides my current position at the university coordinating health enhancement services.

Mr. HASTERT. Would you elaborate on that? Health enhancement services, what is that, exactly?

Mr. HAINES. Health enhancement services is that portion of the university health service who are part of student services on campus which is charged with the responsibility to reduce risk for students for injury, disease, accident, problems; and, of course, then alcohol or other drugs are a part of that issue, particularly alcohol, because it has—plays a major role in unintentional injuries for college students.

What you have heard today, and you will probably hear more of, is a lot of information which is documenting the nature of the drug problem and how serious it is and how it has caused tragedies for individuals in our community. Notwithstanding those, I am here to talk more about the drug solution than the drug problem, with some of the successes that we have had over the last 7 years, 8 years here on our campus.

We have tried, and it has been my experience over the 27 years—I have been particularly pleased with the effects we have gotten because of the trials we have had in trying to have a measurable impact on the behaviors of populations of young people when it comes to alcohol or other drugs.

In the last 7 years, we have reduced the amount of alcohol abuse on campus by 35 percent, reduced harmful alcohol-related physical injury to self by 31 percent and physical injury to others by 54 percent. That is at the same time where it hits the background nationally, where alcohol-related harm to college students has remained unchanged and very difficult to reach.

We have done that through a rather unique method that I think could work in other settings with other populations and within communities, and it addresses the social norms we heard about earlier in some of the testimony. I think you asked a question directly, how do you go about charging norms? That is exactly what we went about doing.

I will go over to the overhead. See overhead No. 1. I don't know if you can all see this or not, but this describes the phenomenon seen on college campuses nationwide. Every campus that was surveyed for this type of information found that college students routinely and regularly perceived the use of alcohol and other drugs to be far greater than the actual use.

The researchers who conducted this work and presented it at the first National Drug Abuse Conference for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in Washington, back in 1987, 1988, hypothesized that if you changed this perception, you could actually change the behavior. Where they were coming from was the idea that young people, college students, respond to imaginary peer pressure. If they think everybody is doing it, then they feel pressure to do it as well to fit in.

Mr. HASTERT. It is what is cool.

Mr. HAINES. It is what is cool.

The comments and questions were asked: What types of movies—I think "Animal House" did more to set the stage, expectation and perceived use of alcohol on college campuses than any other movie could have. I don't know if you are familiar with "Animal House," but it sets up the idea that everybody on campus is getting drunk every weekend, and when they get drunk they do these antics and so on.

What we found on our campus was that the perception of alcohol use was almost actually double the use of alcohol, and they found that on campuses relative to other drugs as well. Researchers at Wake Forest University did similar studies with eighth graders and high school students and found the same information.

They went further and tested different prevention methods and found that prevention methods, which changed the perception of the norm within the peer group, actually had the greatest influence in reducing use of marijuana, tobacco or alcohol by junior high school and high school students. They found that that perception of the social norm was a more powerful predictor than even the availability of the drug itself.

So the student could be offered the drug and you can more accurately predict whether they would use it or not based on what their perception of the norm was. If they thought everybody like themselves were doing it, then they chose the drug. If they didn't think that was the case, they refused it more so.

Essentially, our challenge was how do we change the perception that alcohol abuse is the norm on the college campus of 20,000 students, with one full-time position to do that; and the sheer economies of scale said we had to do that through media; and we used media rather extensively.

What you see in much of the media is this type of headline. See overhead No. 2. That was run in the Wall Street Journal in December 1994 in response to the research conducted by Dr. Henry Wechsler at the Harvard School of Public Health. The research data that Wechsler produced about binge drinking behavior on college campuses could have produced this headline just as easily. See overhead No. 3. Same data, same study, but we have a major difference in the perception of what is the norm on a college campus from this headline—everybody is doing it, nearly everybody is binging—to this headline, which says, moderation is the norm and harm is relatively rare on college campuses related to alcohol use.

What we did to try to change the norms on our campus. The Harvard study also pointed out this information. Again, in the paper, what you saw was the 44 percent who binge drank, you saw the

4 percent who got into trouble with the police, the 9 percent that got hurt or injured, the 9 percent who damaged property and so on.

As a society we overfocus on the deviant; and as we overfocus on the deviant, we unintentionally give the idea to our young people in the community that deviance is more normal than it really is. What we are trying to do is correct that misperception and we did that through, as I said, media; and that media was mostly through our campus paper because our campus paper is read by about 75 percent of our students. We did that by producing very visible ads that addressed the norm issue straight on. See overhead No. 4.

We didn't deny the fact that DUI is a problem and a serious one, but we tried to make it clear that DUI is relatively rare. It is not the norm among college students on this campus or any other campus in the United States. We support and identify the healthy protective behaviors that are resident in the community and then amplify them by feeding them back in order to get more of them.

It is just like when I pay attention to my dog for coming back to me with praise, rather than beating it when it doesn't return, which just teaches it to stay away. I am trying to attend to the population who are doing the behavior well, amplify those protective rituals in the population and feeding it back to them.

These are some more of the ads. See overhead No.'s 5, 6, and 7. Most college students don't participate in alcohol-related harm. I like to call it the big lie that everybody is doing it and everybody is getting hurt. Because on our campus—and I think it is true from all the national data I have seen—the majority of students are not binge drinkers, the majority of students do not use marijuana, the majority by far do not use LSD or cocaine; and we ignore that majority quite often. We don't pay attention to what the students who don't use and have the opportunity to use do in order to get that usage to be reduced. Ninety-seven percent of our students agreed with the statement that an occasional drunk which interferes with academics or other responsibilities is OK. Only 3 percent felt that was something that they agreed with.

Mr. HASTERT. You mean it is not OK.

Mr. HAINES. It is not OK, right. Yes, strike that one.

And most of the students don't cause harm to self or others. As you can see, 9 percent and 20 percent. This is the result of the efforts we have been conducting.

The very first year of the study, we conducted what would be called a traditional campaign, where we taught students that it's OK not to drink, that here are responsible ways to use, and these are the negative consequences which will occur to you if you use heavily. At the end of the first year, perceptions didn't change and use actually went up slightly—heavy use, binge use. See overhead No. 8.

Once we started the normative campaign, the campaign to change social norms, we had a steady decline to where today it is 27 percent. Nationally, it's about 40 percent on college campuses.

As I said earlier, I think this method holds promise. It holds promise not only for college students but I think holds promise for high-school-age populations and, as has been commented on earlier, for the adults in the community. I think they also have the misperception that everybody is doing it and that they, too, need

to be reminded that the protective healthy norms of the community are widespread, that it is normal to be healthy.

I think I should conclude with just a couple comments that I made in my written testimony of the implications for this method.

The powerful influence of perception of social norms on personal drug-taking behavior is enormous. The success of this drug abuse prevention effort has many implications: One, mass media efforts which highlight healthy and protective norms may be very cost-effective ways to improve drug behavior within full communities as well as special target populations.

An effort which identifies and promotes healthy norms already practiced by neighborhoods, communities and social groups is welcomed by those very groups. It is good news. It is good politics. It does not bash the community to eliminate the problem, sort of the burning the house to cook the pig issue. It is a community-government partnership, instead of an adversarial nature that we find so often. Instead of the us against them, we are working together. It is consistent with community policing theories, self-help efforts and returning control to people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. HASTERT. We will come back with questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Haines follows:]

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**Michael Haines Testimony**
**Congressional Field Hearing**
**Northern Illinois University**
**Monday, July 7, 1997**

You have heard the stories and testimony of the havoc that drugs can cause for citizens and communities. Those problems are real, tragic, and wholly preventable.

I am here today to tell a good news story regarding alcohol and other drug abuse by college students at Northern Illinois University. A success story about eight consecutive years of declining harm and increased health and safety on the NIU campus. Testimony about a nationally acclaimed prevention method which is being adopted by campuses across the country and could be used successfully in other community settings as well. This effective program was initiated by a small U.S. Department of Education grant and demonstrates a highly cost effective partnership between the federal government and local resources.

In 1987, a promising young basketball star died of a cocaine and alcohol overdose at the University of Maryland. The death of Len Bias caught the nation's attention. Congress acted quickly with its first ever funding for drug abuse prevention in higher education. They passed legislation which sent support to Secretary of Education William Bennett and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

In 1989, NIU received a two year FIPSE Drug Prevention grant. The purpose of the funding was to reduce drug related problems in higher education through innovations in primary prevention. After two years, continuation funding for the project was the responsibility of the institution. President LaTourette and the Vice President for Student Affairs recognized the importance of maintaining a proactive drug abuse prevention program on campus and committed ongoing support which funded (and continues to fund) this successful effort.

After trying traditional drug prevention efforts (policy changes, scare tactics, refusal skills, etc.) with virtually no positive impact. NIU's Health Enhancement Services became the test site for a new prevention theory introduced at the 1989 FIPSE National Drug Prevention Meeting.

Researchers at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Perkins & Berkowitz) had discovered a large discrepancy between college student's actual drug behavior and what students perceived to be the campus norm. On every campus where this research was conducted the findings were the same: college students thought it was much more common to abuse drugs than was actually the case. Experts at Department of Education were intrigued with the Perkins and Berkowitz hypothesis: If you correct this misperception that "Everyone's doing it.", then you will reduce the number who actually are "doing it"! Other researchers (Hanson & Graham; Prentice & Miller; Baer et al) independently came to the same conclusion with their studies of high school and college students.

During the 1989-90 academic year, NIU initiated a project to correct student perceptions of college drinking norms. They used mass media (campus paper, flyers, posters, buttons) and incentives (dollar bills to students who knew the media message) to change student perceptions. It worked! After one year student perceptions of alcohol abuse dropped 18% and the actual alcohol abuse dropped 16%. Six years later **this campaign has reduced alcohol abuse by 35% and alcohol related physical harm to self by 31% and harm to others by 54%**. On other campuses across the nation, alcohol abuse had remained unchanged (Johnston et al). NIU's efforts have been recognized and cited as exemplary by the Harvard School of Public Health/U.S. Department of Education and the Century Council/George Mason University *Promising Practices* project. The University of Arizona has a grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to replicate NIU's efforts. Initial outcome data from Arizona shows similar results as NIU achieved. Efforts are underway to apply this concept at the University of Colorado, UCLA, Northwestern, Duke, Cal Poly, and a NHTSA funded DUI prevention project in Colorado.

> (See attached: *A Social Norms Approach to Preventing Binge Drinking at Colleges and Universities*, a publication of the Higher education center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 1996)

The powerful influence of perceptions of social norms on personal drug taking behavior is enormous. The success of the NIU drug abuse prevention effort has many implications:

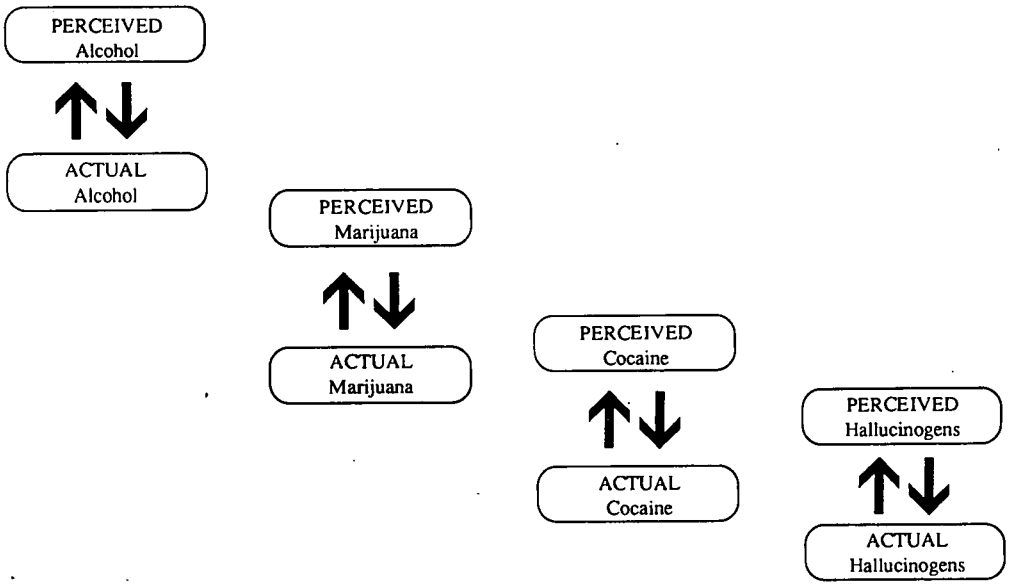
- Mass media efforts which highlight healthy and protective norms may be very cost effective ways to improve drug behavior within whole communities as well as special targeted populations.

- An effort which identifies and promotes healthy norms already practiced by neighborhoods, communities, and social groups is welcomed. It is good news. It is good politics. It does not bash the community to eliminate the problem ("Burning the house to roast the pig.") It is a community-government partnership instead of the adversarial nature of the "war on drugs". It is consistent with community policing theories, self-help efforts, and returning control to the people.

- Every study and every finding has the potential to be "spun" in a way that exaggerates that which is actually quite deviant (non-normative) resulting in public perception that *Animal House* is the norm on campus; cheating is the norm for taxes; violence is the norm in cities; and corruption is the norm in politics... Because these perceptions can become self-fulfilling prophesies, there is greater reason than ever to be concerned about the spin of news stories, government press releases and other public media and the potent impact of advertising, entertainment and commercial media.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Northern Illinois Univereity.

# Actual and Perceived Norms For Use of Different Drugs Among Undergraduates on a College Campus[1]




[1] Adapted from: Perkins, H.W., "Confronting Misperceptions of Peer Drug Use Norms Among College Students: An Alternative Approach For Alcohol and Drug Education Programs." *Peer Prevention Program Implementation Manual.* Fort Worth, TX: Higher Education Leaders/Peers Network, Texas Christian University, 1991.

57

Overhead 1

Overhead
2

# 'Binge' Drinking at Nation's Colleges is Widespread, a Harvard Study Finds

BOSTON - Almost half of all students surveyed at 140 U.S. Colleges admitted to "binge" drinking, leading to everything from fights to vandalism according to ...

*Wall Street Journal* (12/7/94)

Overhead 3

# Majority of College Students Drink Moderately or Not at All, a Harvard Study Finds

BOSTON - Over half of all students surveyed at 140 U.S. colleges reported moderate drinking as the campus norm resulting in relatively small numbers (only 9%) who get hurt or vandalize according to ...

# College Students & DUI

Drinking and driving is one of the most risky behaviors for people today. College students are not immune from this risk, although most students take precautions to protect themselves. One of the goals of Health Service is to reduce alcohol-related injuries. Everyone on campus can help prevent DUI.

91% of college students don't drive after having 5 or more drinks.[1]

Only 2% of college students are arrested for DUI.[2]

The vast majority of NIU students do not exceed the DUI limit (.10 BAC) when they drink.[3]

Here are some tips to help keep drunk drivers off the road:

- ✔ If drinking, use a designated driver or area ride services.
- ✔ Take the person's keys, offer them a ride home.
- ✔ Disable car by pulling coil wire or disabling battery.
- ✔ Enlist the help of others to prevent the person from driving.
- ✔ Call the police before the person gets in the car.

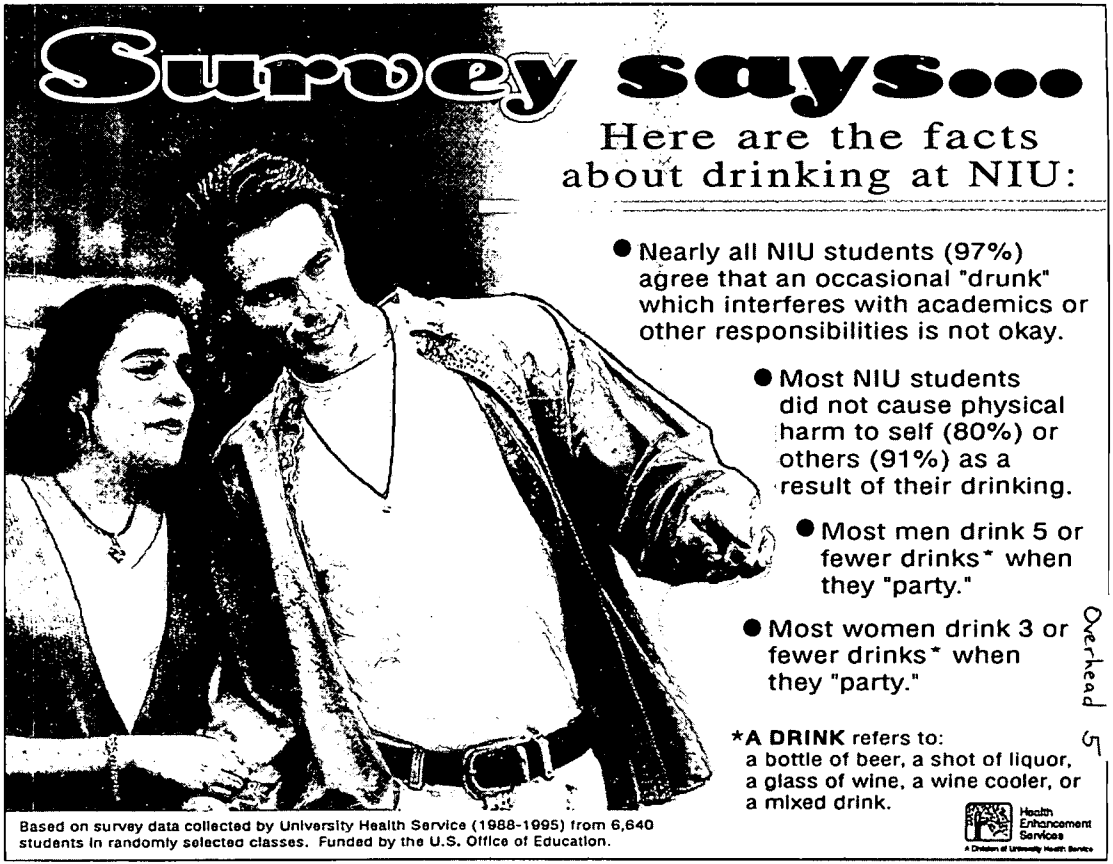
1 Harvard School of Public Health (1995) N=17,592 students - 140 colleges.
2 U.S. Department of education (1989-91) CORE survey N=51,971.
3 University Health Service (1995) Survey in random classes N=990

*Sponsored by: University Health Service & the Division of Student Affairs*

Health Enhancement Services
A Division of University Health Service

60

Overhead 4




Overhead 5

Overhead 6

# Drinking at NIU

**Most students drink moderately**

**Most women drink 3 or fewer drinks when they "party."**

**Most men drink 5 or fewer drinks when they "party."**

Based on survey date collected by University Health Service (1996) from 860 students in randomly selected classes. (Men=55.6%; Women=54.8%.)
Funded by the U.S. Office of Education.

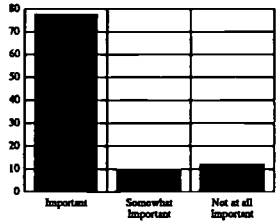
Health Enhancement Services

Overhead 7

# College students consider books more important than beer.

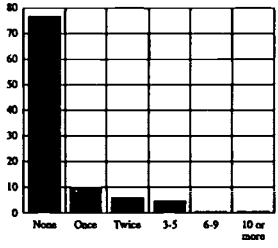
Importance of studying as a reason to limit drinking.

Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study (n=17,592) 1994.



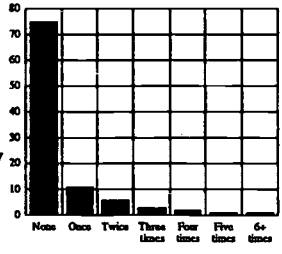

Times reported performing poorly on a test or a project as a consequence of drug or alcohol use.

CORE Institute Alcohol and Drugs on American College Campuses (n=51,971) 1989-91.




Times performed poorly on a test or assignment as a consequence of drinking

Northern Illinois University Health Enhancement Services Annual Student Health Assessment. (n=860) 1996.




## Moderation the Norm

Harvard also found, most college men and women drink moderately or not at all at a drinking occassion.

(Men drink 5 or fewer, women drink 4 or fewer).

CORE noted, most (61%) college students drink fewer than 5 drinks when they "party."

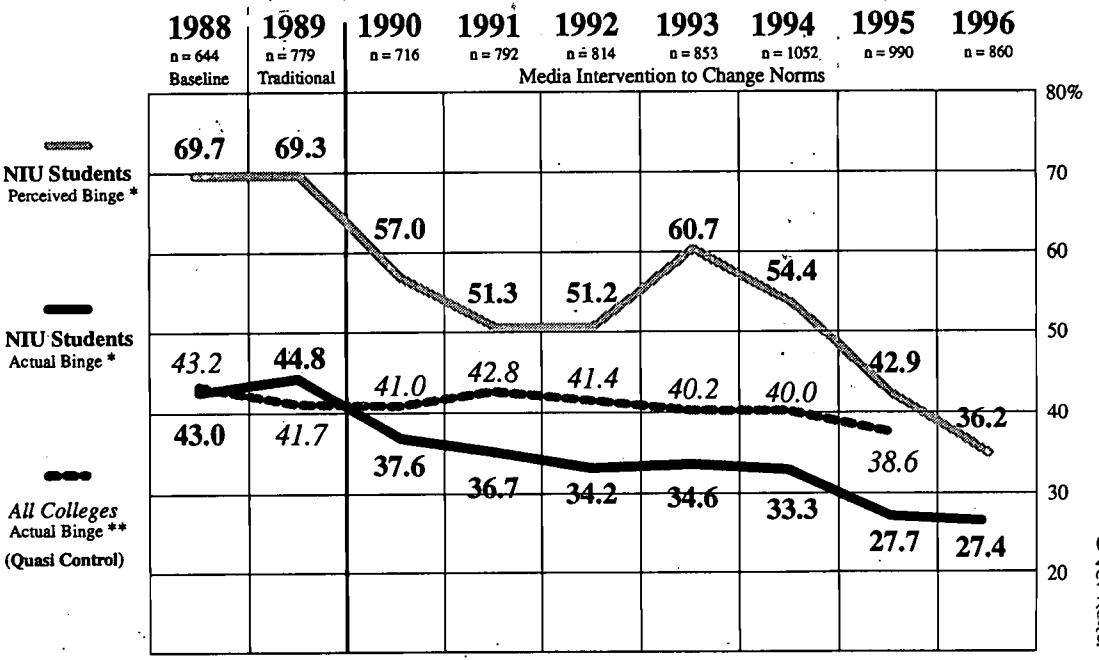
At NIU, most students drink moderately (if at all) when they "party."

(Men drink 5 or fewer, women drink 4 or fewer).

# CHANGING NORMS CHANGES BEHAVIOR

## A Media Campaign Reduces Binge Drinking on Campus

Michael Haines, Northern Illinois University, 1997.




* Binge defined as drinking more than 5 drinks when "partying"

** Binge defined as drinking 5 or more drinks at a sitting within the last 2 weeks.

From: *Drug Use, Drinking and Smoking: National Survey Results From High School, Colleges and Young Adult Population.* Johnston, et al. NIDA, 1996



Overhead 8

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Tim Johnson, States attorney for DeKalb County.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Congressman Hastert and Congressman Manzullo. I appreciate the opportunity to speak and for you being here.

I think it is important for the record to have a little bit of a reflection as to the makeup of DeKalb County. DeKalb County is composed primarily of small cities, villages with populations of less than 12,000, with the only exception being the city of DeKalb.

The city of DeKalb, of course, has a population of roughly 38,000 people, which represents almost one-half of the county's population. Of course, DeKalb is also home to Northern Illinois University. Geographically, the county is large and rectangular in shape.

Like all communities, DeKalb County continues to see the presence of drugs. The most typical drugs that we see in DeKalb County are marijuana and cocaine. Recently, however, we have seen in DeKalb County arrests of individuals who have been selling mushrooms, LSD and opium. The presence of these and other drugs continues to be a threat to the young people of our community.

Mr. HASTERT. Is mushroom the name of the drug?

Mr. MANZULLO. It is psilocybin.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is exactly right. And, of course, we continue to have the use of alcohol and tobacco products by our young people.

Although I don't think exact statistics are available, there are certain trends that are clear in DeKalb County. One-quarter of felony arrests are directly related to drugs. Others are indirectly related and are, therefore, hard to quantify; but they involve burglary, forgery, deceptive practices in which individuals who have a drug habit are committing those crimes in an effort to feed that habit. Indeed, other felonies are committed when these individuals are highly intoxicated. The net result is, very conservatively, over one-half of felonies committed in DeKalb County involve drug or alcohol usage and probably much higher than that.

The fact drugs are available in rural communities cannot be disputed. The effect on our young people is more difficult to ascertain. I believe there are many reasons why this is so.

First, teens are not likely to be totally honest with authority figures when discussing drugs and alcohol. There is a code of silence that exists with young people. They don't like to tell on each other. However, I believe any teen can tell you, if you want to buy drugs, where do you go to buy those drugs.

Second, some officials have an interest in denying problems do, in fact, exist. They may choose to handle certain problems in-house, choosing not to involve the police. Other officials can underreport the extent of the drug activity in their school or turn a blind eye to the potential problems.

Another problem that exists, I believe, is the method and criteria for reporting what types of activities are occurring. For example, some communities may choose to do station adjustments. Other communities may, in fact, choose to direct that individual directly to court.

Finally, I think in any community there are always variables that include finances, work force available and the coordination and cooperation of the services that are available.

I believe that when you consider the above, it seems relatively clear that to adequately address the drug and alcohol problem facing our youth we must include several things. First, the approach must have a prevention aspect. We must continue to be proactive, and I believe this requires the support of the entire community. I believe some of the essential players in this effort must come from the school systems, police agencies, prosecutor's office and social service agencies as well as the teenagers themselves.

I think, too often, we leave the teens out when discussing these problems. For example, as you have heard and as you have heard the prior speaker, we have groups such as DCP/SAFE, which is, again, an active group coordinating prevention services on a community basis.

I think cooperation and communication is essential to handle this problem. Standards must be used for schools and police agencies to report drug and alcohol-related incidents and arrests so we can accurately analyze this problem.

Second, from the States attorneys' perspective, we must continue to aggressively prosecute those who choose to violate the law and provide drugs to our young people. Every effort must be made to provide the law enforcement officials the funds they need to protect society and especially our young children. Individuals who sell drugs and individuals who sell drugs to teenagers or at school need to understand their conduct will not be tolerated and they will be punished accordingly.

In conclusion, teens need to be educated about the negative effects of drug and alcohol usage; and I think the testimony you heard today—they need to understand it is not necessarily the norm. Their perception may be different than reality. Those teens that are using drugs need to be referred to the appropriate agency to deal with their problems. The individuals that prey on our youth or refuse the offers of help must understand, if they violate the law, they will be aggressively prosecuted.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Johnson follows:]

DeKalb County is not unlike other rural communities that are home to a university. DeKalb County is composed primarily of small cities with populations of less than 12,000, with the only exception being the City of DeKalb. The City of DeKalb has a population of approximately 38,000, and accounts for nearly one-half of the County's population. In addition, DeKalb is home to Northern Illinois University with a student population of 23,000. Geographically, the County is large and rectangular in shape.

Like all communities, DeKalb County continues to see the presence of drugs. The most typical drugs we see are marijuana and cocaine. Recently, however, the North Central Narcotics Task Force, operating in DeKalb County, has made arrests of individuals accused of selling psilocin (mushrooms), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and opium. The presence of these and other drugs continues to be a threat to the young people of our community. Of course, the use of alcohol and tobacco products is also present.

Although exact statistics are not available, certain trends are clear. Nearly, one-quarter of the felony arrests in DeKalb County are directly related to drugs. Other felony charges are indirectly related and are therefore hard to quantify. Charges such as burglary, forgery, deceptive practice, as well as others, are sometimes the result of individuals committing crimes to support their drug habit. Indeed other felonies are committed when the individual is high or intoxicated. The net result is that conservatively, well over one-half of the felonies committed in DeKalb County are related to drugs and alcohol usage.

While the fact that drugs are available in rural communities cannot be disputed, the actual affect on our youth is much more difficult to ascertain. There are many reasons why this is so. First, teens are not likely to be totally honest with authority figures. There is a "code of silence" that exists, teens do not tell on other teens. However, almost any teen can also tell you where to go if you want to buy drugs. Secondly, some officials have an interest in denying that problems do in fact exist. Officials may choose to handle certain offenses in house, choosing not to involve the police. Other officials can under report the extent of the drug activity in their school, or turn a blind eye to potential problems. Thirdly, the method and criteria for reporting can be different from one administration to another. For example, some communities may choose to do "station adjustments" on young people rather than referring them to court. Other communities may document crimes as "drug-related" when they suspect that the perpetrator was using drugs, others may not. Finally, there will

always be the variables of any community, such as the finances available to accurately supervise and document drug usage, the quality and quantity of individuals available to supervise, and the coordination and cooperation of services available in the community.

Considering the above, it seems relatively clear that to adequately address the drug and alcohol problem facing our youth, the approach must include several things. First, we must use an approach that includes prevention. We must continue to be pro-active. This requires the support of the entire community. I believe the essential players in this effort must come from the schools, the police, the prosecutors, the social service agencies, and teens themselves. Too often, we leave the teens out when discussing the problem. In DeKalb County, we have groups such as DCP/SAFE (DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment) which is an active group coordinating prevention efforts on a community-wide basis. Cooperation and communication is essential. Standards must be used for schools and police agencies to use in reporting drug and alcohol related incidents and/or arrests, so that we can more accurately analyze the problem.

Secondly, we must continue to aggressively prosecute those who choose to violate the law and continue to use and sell drugs. Every effort must be made to provide law enforcement officials the funds they need to protect our society, and more specifically, our youth. Individuals who sell drugs to teens, who sell drugs at school need to understand that their conduct will not be tolerated and that they will be punished accordingly.

In conclusion, teens need to be educated about the negative effects of drug and alcohol usage. Those teens that are using drugs need to be referred to the appropriate agency to deal with their problem. Those individuals that prey on our youth, or those individuals that refuse the offers of help, must understand that if they violate the law, they will be aggressively prosecuted.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Johnson

Timothy W. Johnson
DeKalb County State's Attorney

Mr. HASTERT. Also with us from a neighboring county, just to the south—it used to be known as a rural county. I am not sure it is still. It is half rural, I guess, Kendall County. Sheriff Randall is not only the sheriff, but he is involved with Operation North Star, and you might comment a little on your local issue and the bigger picture.

Mr. RANDALL. Thank you, Congressman Hastert and Congressman Manzullo. I appreciate all of the efforts that all of the people are making today and that you would come out to our rural area.

As sheriff for the past 11 years in Kendall County and a law enforcement officer for over 29 years in Illinois, I have many concerns about illegal drugs, gangs and violence in our area.

Being the sheriff, these concerns take on multi-levels of approaches, not only enforcement but incarceration, investigation and officer of the courts, along with prevention/education and developing multi-jurisdictional task forces in utilizing as many resources as possible to curb that activity in our area. Even though we are involved and proactive in many of these areas, I have concerns of many other agencies doing or attempting duplication of many of these same efforts and lack of coordination in the more local areas, which you have alluded to.

In the past several years, cooperation of all agencies across the board in providing services has improved greatly, but the coordination of these services needs additional help, I believe.

With the broad brush I have painted, I would like to focus on a few areas to be explored for future planning and actions that could be taken.

Education/prevention: On a county-wide or possibly a region-wide effort, developing resource information packets of services available and ongoing projects and programs of the region. This information needs updating minimally every 6 months. There are many positive, localized programs that can provide some very important information or direction to others attempting to resolve or solve an issue of need.

This is not to say that each area or program used uses a cookie-cutter approach, but it can afford individuals or agency ideas and knowledge on a broader base, hopefully for better results. The wheel has been invented. Each group or individual can design their own hubcap for their particular local need.

Many efforts are available, but it takes people to put them in motion by providing as much information and direction that could be an asset in dealing successfully in protecting and leading our communities to a safer environment. The Kendall County Sheriff's Office of COPS, the Community Oriented Police Section, are indeed starting that process but only in localized neighborhoods and townships, not in total concert with the coordination of other jurisdictions or resources.

No. 2, investigation/enforcement. Working with multi-agency jurisdictions has been a very positive and successful effort; but, again, broader intelligence and dissemination networking needs to be developed, specifically in the more rural areas, a faster, more direct process of information to gain a better understanding of the broad scope of people, places, migrations, trends, routes, et cetera,

of gang and illegal drug activity, brought down to the smaller agencies.

Again, I believe there is a tremendous amount of intelligence information, and we need to capture it from smaller jurisdictions. A method or process needs to be developed to gain this information and, at the same time, recognize the smaller agencies for providing positive results without jeopardizing long-term cases. These cases are without a doubt more difficult. In some instances, where there are fewer people, anonymity is next to impossible, along with the small numbers of incidences.

Again, education and knowledge of the bigger picture, along with total community involvement, will support positive resolutions to reduce and treat unacceptable behavior firmly. We law enforcement providers need to foster remedies, disseminate accurate information, work with other community service providers and listen to the community.

No. 3, domestic violence. I know this is stepping outside the circle of your immediate concerns, but I think we need to focus on this area as a major contributor to drug abuse, gang involvement and violence. In my 29 years of experience, I believe this is a catalyst of the dilemma, in escaping reality, needing alternative recognition or striking out in frustration and anger. This is totally unacceptable behavior, and it is totally out of control, which is skyrocketing the antisocial behavior of drugs, gangs and violence.

If resources can be coordinated at all levels, not only the criminal justice and social services, but all levels of our communities, we will begin to resolve this dilemma. This may be an awesome task, but in order to look to the future, you have to look to the past and identify the major factors and what are the contributors of this dilemma and attack it on many fronts. Education, prevention, sincere alternatives, in my opinion, will add to the stabilization of our communities and our country.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Sheriff.

Mr. HASTERT. Do you want to take just a minute and talk about Operation North Star? Because it is an interagency issue. Just in your own words.

Mr. RANDALL. It is between Canada and the United States, about criminal activity on the border in both countries. It really focuses on the coordination. In fact, it has three Cs and an I—communication, coordination, cooperation and information—and that is exactly what we are doing today. We are fostering and trying to build that between both countries, our own government, Federal, State, local and county, to try to put this big picture together and work together and network positively.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Randall follows:]

CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JULY 17,1997

SHERIFF RICHARD A. RANDALL
KENDALL COUNTY ILLINOIS

AS SHERIFF THE PAST 11 YEARS FOR KENDALL COUNTY AND A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR OVER TWENTY-NINE YEARS IN ILLINOIS, I HAVE MANY CONCERNS ABOUT ILLEGAL DRUGS, GANGS AND VIOLENCE IN OUR AREA.

BEING THE SHERIFF, THESE CONCERNS TAKE ON MULTI LEVELS OF APPROACHES, NOT ONLY ENFORCEMENT, BUT INCARCERATION, INVESTIGATION, AND OFFICER OF THE COURTS, ALONG WITH PREVENTION/EDUCATION AND DEVELOPING MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCES IN UTILIZING AS MANY RESOURCES AS POSSIBLE TO CURB CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN OUR AREA. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE INVOLVED AND PRO-ACTIVE IN MANY OF THESE AREAS, I HAVE CONCERNS OF MANY OTHER AGENCIES DOING (ATTEMPTING) DUPLICATION OF MANY OF THESE SAME EFFORTS AND LACK OF COORDINATION IN THE MORE LOCAL AREAS. IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS COOPERATION OF ALL AGENCIES ACROSS THE BOARD OF PROVIDING SERVICES HAS IMPROVED GREATLY, BUT THE COORDINATION OF THESE SERVICES NEEDS ADDITIONAL HONING, I BELIEVE.

WITH THE BROAD BRUSH I HAVE PAINTED, I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON A FEW AREAS THAT COULD BE EXPLORED FOR FUTURE PLANNING AND ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN.

#1 EDUCATION/PREVENTION; THAT ON A COUNTY-WIDE OR POSSIBLY A REGION WIDE EFFORT IN DEVELOPING RESOURCE INFORMATION PACKETS OF SERVICES AVAILABLE AND ONGOING PROGRAMS OF THE REGION. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS UP-DATING MINIMALLY EVERY SIX MONTHS. THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE LOCALIZED PROGRAMS THAT CAN PROVIDE SOME VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION/DIRECTION TO OTHERS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE/SOLVE AN ISSUE OF NEED. THIS IS NOT TO SAY EACH AREA OR PROGRAM USE THE COOKIE CUTTER APPROACH, BUT IT CAN AFFORD INDIVIDUALS, AGENCY'S IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE ON A BROADER BASE, HOPEFULLY FOR BETTER RESULTS.

"THE WHEEL HAS BEEN INVENTED, EACH GROUP/INDIVIDUAL CAN DESIGN THEIR OWN HUBCAP FOR THEIR PARTICULAR LOCAL NEED."
THERE ARE MANY MANY EFFORTS AVAILABLE, BUT IT TAKES PEOPLE TO PUT THEM IN MOTION BY PROVIDING AS MUCH INFORMATION AND

DIRECTION THAT COULD BE AN ASSET IN DEALING SUCCESSFULLY IN PROTECTING AND LEADING OUR COMMUNITIES TO A SAFER ENVIRONMENT. THE KENDALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S "C.O.P.S" (COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICE SECTION) ARE INDEED STARTING THAT PROCESS, BUT ONLY IN LOCALIZED NEIGHBORHOODS, AND TOWNSHIPS, NOT IN TOTAL CONCERT WITH COORDINATION OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS OR RESOURCES.

#2. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT; WORKING WITH MULTI-AGENCY JURISDICTIONS HAS BEEN A VERY POSITIVE AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORT, BUT AGAIN BROADER INTELLIGENCE AND DISSEMINATION NETWORKING NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED, SPECIFICALLY IN THE MORE RURAL AREAS. A FASTER MORE DIRECT PROCESS OF INFORMATION TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BROAD SCOPE OF PEOPLE, PLACES, MIGRATIONS, TRENDS, ROUTES ETC. OF GANG AND ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY BROUGHT DOWN TO THE SMALLER AGENCIES.
AGAIN, I BELIEVE THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND A NEED TO CAPTURE IT FROM THE SMALLER JURISDICTIONS. A METHOD/PROCESS NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED TO GAIN THIS INFORMATION AND AT THE SAME TIME, RECOGNIZE THOSE SMALLER AGENCIES FOR PROVIDING POSITIVE RESULTS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING LONG TERM CASE. THESE CASES ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT MORE DIFFICULT IN SOME INSTANCES, WHERE THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE AND ANONYMITY IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE, ALONG WITH THE SMALL NUMBERS OF INCIDENCES. AGAIN, EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIGGER PICTURE, ALONG WITH TOTAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, WILL SUPPORT POSITIVE RESOLUTIONS TO REDUCE AND TREAT UN-ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FIRMLY. WE (LAW ENFORCEMENT) PROVIDERS NEED TO FOSTER REMEDIES, DISSEMINATE ACCURATE INFORMATION, WORK WITH OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY.

#3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; I KNOW THIS IS STEPPING OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE OF YOUR IMMEDIATE CONCERNS, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THIS AREA AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO DRUG ABUSE, GANG INVOLVEMENT AND VIOLENCE!

IN MY TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, I BELIEVE THIS IS THE CATALYST OF THE DILEMMA, IN ESCAPING REALITY, NEEDING ALTERNATIVE RECOGNITION OR STRIKING OUT IN FRUSTRATION AND ANGER. THIS IS TOTALLY UN-ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AND IS TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL WHICH IS SKYROCKETING THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF DRUGS, GANGS AND VIOLENCE. IF RESOURCES CAN BE COORDINATED AT ALL LEVELS, NOT ONLY CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL SERVICES, BUT ALL LEVELS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, WE WILL BEGIN TO RESOLVE THIS DILEMMA. THIS MAY BE AN AWESOME TASK, BUT IN ORDER TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE MAY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE PAST, IDENTIFY THE MAJOR FACTORS THAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS DILEMMA AND ATTACK IT ON MANY FRONTS.
EDUCATION, PREVENTION, SINCERE ALTERNATIVES AND POSITIVE ENFORCEMENT, IN MY OPINION, WILL ADD TO THE STABILIZATION OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Miller, you represent Lee County, which is just to the west of here. What, Mr. Miller, you have done in Dixon, IL, is just kind of pull yourself up by your own bootstraps and get public awareness out of the parade. So why don't you enlighten us on your activities, please?

Mr. MILLER. I would thank you, Congressman Hastert and Congressman Manzullo, for having me here; and I am just a country boy.

Mr. HASTERT. We know all about country boys.

Mr. MILLER. I apologize. I do not have a written statement. Your office was on me a lot to try and get it, and I just never got it accomplished. But I do think I have a lot to tell you, and I will go through that.

About 10 years ago—in fact, 10 years ago in January—I was watching the Bears-Miami football game; and at half time, they had a small parade where they had a dignitary and a few students marching, saying no to drugs; and I thought that is a real positive thing to be doing in a community. So I went to our City Council and our mayor. I asked them if Dixon would support me in this, if I could do this.

They gave me permission to start, told me I should start with Police Chief Short and see what we could come up with. I went to Bob Short, and he was in favor of it. We put together a committee of Bob Short, the police chief, Kathy White, who was in the city counseling center, and Kirby Rogers, who was the dean of students at the Dixon High School and myself. The four of us put together a program for not just a parade but for a whole year program.

In October—and we have mentioned before about the red ribbons—which is a red ribbon month, we pass out 5,000 red ribbons to our students in Lee County. We have somewhere around 5,200 students in Lee County. We pass out a ribbon to each student so that they might be aware of the sacrifice this Federal agent had who died and then he is honored when we pass out these ribbons. So we do that, and we pay for that each October.

During the year, we try to work with the schools with different say no to drugs programs. Someone like maybe the two athletes that were here, we would have them come to the schools and tell the story to the students, so the students would know that here are a couple young men who were messed up and found a new way of life. So this is another positive thing we try to bring to the students throughout the year.

We have also attempted to educate the parents by having law enforcement agencies come in. We had one lieutenant, I remember, from North Carolina that came in and gave a program at our theater. I think we had 30 parents show up, and it was a cost for us, and it didn't work too well. But we feel this whole program we set up is an education for the parents and the students, and that is the only way it is going to work.

Right after the first of the year, we send out to each school letters. They take the forms in these letters and give them to each student, and the students sign up for a free T-shirt. We have the T-shirts for our parades.

The first year of our parade, we had the just say no to drugs logo on the T-shirt and furnished these to every student that would

march. This is our 10th year, and we had students design their own T-shirts. We had a first-place winner. She designed this shirt, and it was different this year than the other 9 years, so we wore her design.

We try to keep young people realizing the community, the law enforcement part of the community, the clubs, the schools are all behind them in their decision to say no to drugs. We want to keep it positive. We wanted them, we felt from the beginning, to bond together as a group so when they went from third grade and fourth grade they could see other students who had marched in the parade with them and know here is somebody else who stood up to say no to drugs and has marched in this parade.

In the spring—later in the spring, after we have put out the bids for the T-shirts, we get buttons, say no to drug buttons; and we have had them for all of 10 years. We pass them out early spring, so young people know we are still working with the program.

This year the second-place winner in our contest designed this button. I think he was a fourth grader.

The schools have all kinds of different programs, as I mentioned before, during the year. We culminate at the end of the year with a week-long program.

We start out in the churches. We try to encourage our churches of Lee County to have a program within the church, whether it be a prayer time or a sermon or whatever, to encourage the church people and students that are a part of the church to take a stand and say no to drugs. That is the beginning of our week.

During the week, we have programs in the schools. We will have coloring book contests with the little kids, which is the say no to drug theme. They will color that, and we give the first-place winner a certain prize.

Students make poster boards which they wear in the parade, which are different things, saying say no to drugs. We have them make banners which they carry in the parade. Also, at some of the schools I called on, they are still hanging around the schools, where they are very proud of what their children are doing. They honored them by keeping them there.

We also had them decorate the bicycles that they ride in the parade and their wagons. Some are now taking last year's T-shirts and putting them on the dogs and bringing their dogs with their say no to drug T-shirts on, which is fine as long as they are not the new ones. I have a hard enough time getting money to buy the shirts.

We operate with about a $10,000 budget. I spend between $7,000 and $8,000 for T-shirts, so we don't have a lot of other money.

The police department and the county sheriff will buy the ribbons for us out of their drug-bust money. They figure this is an educational thing. So 1 year, the police chief buys the ribbons. It will be about $300. Then that year, the sheriff buys the buttons; and they cost about $800. So we flip-flop them back and forth each year. That is how we cover the expense.

After we have had this put together of the school program, we put together the parade. To this date, which is the 10th year, we had 24,471 students sign up and march in our parades.

The first year I was a little iffy as to what was going to happen because this had never happened before, and I had 1,878 students sign up and march in the parade. So it is a thrilling thing to see that these students are doing this.

In the past years, the thrilling thing for me is to see more and more parents marching with their students. So I am sure they are feeling more and more support from their families.

The picture I sent to you might not have been a very good picture, but the police chief is there. Our sheriff is there. The lieutenant at the head of the parade was an Olympic athlete. We tried to have a quality thing for the kids—the athlete, we had the Bears, we had the Green Bay Packers.

We ended at the school in the band shell and they signed autographs on the back of the T-shirts. The first year, they signed in nonwaterproof ink; and my wife washed mine off.

We have a lot of race car drivers. They pull the cars down there and set up in the same area that they sign autographs, and they let the kids look at the cars.

We have had track meets for the kids to participate in afterwards at the high school track.

We had different drug programs from our Sinasippi Center. They bring in a program or a hospital brings in a booth where they hand out literature and try to help our kids.

We are just a very active and excited group. Yet I am also on the task force at Dixon High School, and we just went through a survey profile of student life attitudes and behavior. It was performed by the Research Institute of Minneapolis, MN. We find that 23 percent of our 12th graders report binge drinking three or more times in the last 2 weeks, and that was from 1996.

We also had, which is a disturbing thing for me, 44 percent of our seniors in the last 12 months had driven a car after drinking once or twice. We had several statistics on drugs, marijuana; 52 percent of the seniors had tried marijuana in their lifetime; 6 percent had tried cocaine; 22 percent tried amphetamines; LSD, 10 percent; 6 percent have tried heroin.

So with all of our programs, with all of our efforts to try to bring a positive attitude, this is sort of a downer, but it is not enough to stop us from continuing on. We don't have much participation from the students when they get to high school, and I think that is because of a lot of peer pressure. It looks maybe sort of silly for them, they feel, walking down the street in a parade. We have had some, but very few.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much.

I was interested, especially, in high school kids. One statistic is, if you get a kid through age 15 without using drugs and not smoking, there is a good chance he is going to make it to 21 and then through the rest of his life. I think it is a very important issue.

We come back to dealing specifically with a couple of questions, but I would like to start with Mr. Haines.

I, too, sometimes would like to be able to change the headlines. Just people read the story and not the headlines. It works out better. I haven't found a way to do that.

But, anyway, in your essence of actually being able to give a different perspective, psychologically, if you will, have you—you know, you use statistics, but you are around campus day in and day out. Is the attitude changing?

Mr. HAINES. I think definitely we have seen an attitude change over the years.

There was just a current front page story in our summer edition of the campus paper which talked about marijuana use on the college campus. I believe Chief Pickens said what we may have is more enforcement with the same level of use. So that people perceive that there is more use going on, and that is another one of those perception things.

I think some of that enforcement, at least from some anecdotal comment that I have heard from some of the residence hall staff, is that the student attitudes about marijuana are less accepting of marijuana use today, even among the student staff who may be resident assistants and so on. So things or behaviors relative to marijuana use that might have been overlooked or where somebody turned the other way or just slapped a wrist 10 years ago are now being written up and sanctioned.

I don't think that should be bad news. It gives the community the perception there is more marijuana use when actually there isn't, and I think it is more accurately a reflection of less tolerance, and it could be good news. It is unfortunate that it often gets spun as bad news, as more evidence we have trouble. It actually should be seen for what it is, that there is more evidence that things are healthier than ever before on the college campuses.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Johnson, you talk about the unintended consequences and the unintended crime that happens. When you talk about the crime that kids when, because they are on drugs—part of that is burglary, purse snatching, taking money from their parents to get money to buy drugs.

What we don't see, when we see that that incidence is up, is a pharmacological crime out there, that the crimes that kids do—and the adults as well, because they are under the influence, much like what you are talking about, the injury from alcohol, that they do—and one of the studies that just came out, that 80 percent of the domestic abuse cases are involved in some way with alcohol and drugs—I mean, it is a huge number that we spend a lot of money on.

It is estimated we spend about $90 billion in this country every year—not just in buying drugs. That type of money, that goes through the system—but in apprehension and the cost of victims, the cost of crime, incarceration, those types of options are just huge. You just start to look at what a high school spends and universities spend and how we do that all across our society, it is a huge amount.

So you said another thing that I want to see you repeat that and get your opinion on and then test it on some of the other folks here, that prosecution is important. You need to prosecute kids so they know where the line is. Tell us a little bit about that.

Mr. JOHNSON. I think you heard from the first panel—I can't remember. One of the gentlemen speaking in the first panel said they come and test an area and find out their policies and procedures

in an area. If they find out you get caught and if you get a slap on the wrist, you go on and do your business more, that is a good area to settle in. So you want to send a message out.

I think one thing that is repeatedly clear is people who commit crimes have networks, and they understand more than people give them credit for as to where the markets are that they want to locate in. They are a business, and they look for markets that are more friendly to them, as with any business. So I think that the message that we want to send out as communities is your type of conduct is not tolerated.

I think the other thing is, from a juvenile perspective, these individuals do want to know where the lines are drawn. They want consistency. They want—I think if they are honest and they tell you what they believe, they want to know what is acceptable behavior and what is not; and they want to know that, no matter who it is, if they violate these laws, it will be applied evenly to them.

So I think we have to send the message out, especially from the prosecutor's office. Everybody wears a different hat, but I think from the prosecutor's office, they have to understand when they make it to our office they are going to treat it seriously. The punishment will be consistent, and it will be——

I don't want to ignore the whole aspect of referring people to treatment as well. I think, too often, in the prosecutor's office, you get locked into this idea you are going to get a conviction and think you accomplished something. It is certainly a major part of what the prosecutor's role is; but I think we have to get the people to the help they need, especially the users, to get them to the help they need so they don't repeatedly come back into our system.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Nakonechny—I am going to get that name right. I mean, I don't want to put you on the spot, but as a teacher and a coach, sometimes you think, gee, I can help this kid, rather than send them into the system. What do you see works? Does tough prosecution work? If kids know they are going to get caught, they are going to go through the court system, does that help? Or how do you see that? You are dealing with the kids every day.

Mr. NAKONECHNY. Well, I think it does help. I really do.

The tidying up of our own school procedures in terms of discipline certainly has sent out a message, but it is in combination with everything said here. It is in combination with the entire community.

I don't think Mr. Johnson can do it by himself or Mike can do it by himself. It is still the phrase about a village and raising a kid. I think we are at that point in time. It definitely has to be there.

Just reflect on the DUI laws and what has happened statistically. We have a long way to go there, too; but I hear more and more people, especially in my age bracket, saying, wow, this is more serious business. You know, I am not doing this and I am not doing that. So there is a positive to it all. As long as we keep a positive to it in terms of rehabilitation.

Mr. HASTERT. Sheriff, as an officer of the court, do you see that as a policy?

Mr. RANDALL. That is correct; and using the multifaceted programs of what is going on, how we deal with everybody's situation

cannot be the same. You can be firm, but every situation is different, and you have to look at each one.

Mr. HASTERT. Let me go into a different aspect you brought out before. DeKalb County, Kane County and Kendall County are all in the same judicial circuit, so there should be some cooperation there.

You know, a couple years ago, we had a meeting that brought together the sheriffs and the States attorneys and police chiefs and others; and out of that circumstance some of the folks, it was the first time they sat down and talked and found out they had common problems in cooperation. What is happening is there is more cooperation between different levels and the courts, the judges themselves, in this whole issue. You mentioned coordination.

Mr. RANDALL. Absolutely, and that helped. I think those have to be on a continual basis. You just can't do it one time. Because people change, positions change, whatever; and all of that has to be on a continual basis to continue that positive networking of what is going on.

You know, if someone has a good program up here and we are not aware of it in Kendall County, maybe we could steal that program, enhance it, and say, yes, we have the same issue.

Mr. HASTERT. Is that coordination happening?

Mr. RANDALL. Probably not as good as it should, but it is happening. It just needs to be improved.

I know—between all the meetings that we all attend and try to get information and all of the periodicals that come out, attempting to gain as much information as possible, when you think you have everything, somebody else will come up and—just like this. Oh, he really does have a good program. Why does it work there? You know, he is a very enlightened person; and they get it to go. You have to get a sparkplug in your area to do some of the things.

Mr. HASTERT. One of the things we didn't do, we didn't include the school community when we had the meeting, partly because there are some reasons—you want to keep some of the records tight and not expose your students to the stuff.

Do you feel there should be more coordination between the courts and the schools and the judges and the police? Or is that happening?

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I believe it is happening in DeKalb. Again, we could probably improve on some areas.

But, when Mike Lauden was States attorney, we worked very, very closely through the DCP/SAFE. I just don't know Tim very well at this point in time; but the schools and DeKalb Police Department have worked very, very closely. A few years back, if I remember correctly, there used to be almost monthly meetings, for instance, with the police department and the school officials.

Mr. HASTERT. One of the things, you have talked about some obstacles and your discipline committees, and you have tightened down. Have you had any liability obstacles, people threatening to take you to court?

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I really can't answer that question because I am not an administrator. I don't deal with discipline per se. But I would say, yes, there have been some problems; but I couldn't verify that in terms of specifics for you.

Mr. HASTERT. Finally, to finish off my question and go to the second round here—Mr. Miller, I was in Dixie yesterday at another parade, a nice affair you had there. But I visited a couple weeks ago, maybe a month ago now, while school was still in session, Reagan Junior High School; and I talked to all your eighth graders.

There are about 250 eighth graders in the school, and we were talking about some of the things I do in Washington. We were talking about the drug issue and what we need to do and how we are trying to look at it from the Federal perspective.

The kids were good, but one question I asked them is how many of their parents—have ever had their parents talk to them seriously about drugs. There were 250 kids; and if I remember, off the top of my head, there were about 43 kids that raised their hands. That is about 20 percent, 2 out of every 10 kids.

You talk about getting parents involved. This is mainstream U.S.A., Ronald Reagan's hometown. How could we do a better job? Are we doing a better job getting parents involved, sitting down and talking to the kids?

We talk about norms and expectations. If parents can't sit and talk to their kids and explain what they feel—we are getting into a pretty personal area here—we are not getting the job done. What is your view on that?

Mr. MILLER. As I mentioned before, we tried to have some parent programs; and they just were not interested. They would not come to be educated.

As the young woman earlier indicated, if she had some ideas of the signs of drugs that she could have looked for in her children, maybe she would have spotted that earlier.

We tried to come up with those type of programs for parents, but they just don't seem to want to get involved, to take that step of commitment that they have to take. We are going to continue to try to come up with programs to help them realize the need.

I think the first program is probably that parade. Because, like I say, I have seen a lot more participation by the parents; and that is probably the first step. They are showing their kids that, hey, we are going to walk with you. We don't care if somebody on the stands sees we are walking with you, even though they might have been, you know, using drugs themselves or drinking excessively themselves.

Maybe this is the first step they need to take there and then maybe they will be educable a little later. I don't know. I think that is a very important step we need to work with, but I don't have the real answers on how to do it.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Haines.

Mr. HAINES. I think that following along with the same sort of idea of positive or protective norms, where we can use our educational facilities, K through 12, as well as the university to connect those young people, even through home work assignments, with examples from their own family, from their own communities, of people who have been successful in their relationship with alcohol or other drugs.

One of the homework assignments I had for my class was that during spring break or Thanksgiving break, which semester it happened to be in, is they had to go home and find examples of three

responsible drinkers and they had to interview the drinkers and find out what were their techniques for maintaining a healthy relationship with alcohol.

One of those people had to be related to them. One person had to be a friend of the family from the community. It was the intentional exercise to link them directly with healthy models from their own community and their own family of how to do the right behavior.

I think we need to parade a lot more healthy, successful models in front of young people, notwithstanding the tragedies young people see when we have the recovering person come to class. The recovering person has a message which says, if you get messed up, you, too, can be cured. It isn't a message of how not to get messed up in the first place. We need a greater parade of people who come to show young people they can be successful, because there are a lot of others who are.

Mr. HASTERT. Sheriff, were you going to say something?

Mr. RANDALL. Yes. You had a question between the liaisons of school and law enforcement; and the chief of police who was here was chairman of the committee working with the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association that developed a very good program that has been adopted Statewide for all law enforcement agencies working with the schools, not just on communication but cooperation.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Nakonechny, what about parent involvement? You are dealing with kids and parents; and you still send out report cards, get some reaction back. Parents basically don't want to get involved or are they getting more involved or they only get involved when there is a problem?

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I think the latter is right, when it becomes a problem. The tendency you see in our schools—but it is across the State.

Every winter we go to Springfield for the Statewide drug and alcohol seminar with the State officials. Everybody I talked with, Charleston to Macomb to Carbondale, when you ask the question how difficult is it to get parents into schools, they say that is the $64,000 gem; and if we can solve that here, you are going to the White House. I mean, it is a tough one. It's a very, very difficult one.

From kindergarten, beginning—their early primary years, parents do get involved; but as you go up the grade scale it drops off, to the point, in high school, it gets very; very difficult to get people in there, very difficult.

Mr. MANZULLO. You know, nobody wants to say it, but I will. The reason a lot of parents don't get involved with regard to drugs is that they lived through drugs in the schools, and they survived it. They figure if they lived through and survived it, their kids will do the same thing.

It's true. If you ask parents about it, they say, well, we lived through it. Many experimented with it. They will tell you to your face, I smoked a little marijuana; and it did nothing harmful for me. If my kid does it, there will be nothing harmful for him.

So there has to be two generations that need to be reached—not only the generation at risk but the parents.

If you have the town meeting on the increase in cable rates, believe me, that place would be packed out. It is really an indication of the fact that so many parents are just saying—and I am not saying this in a critical manner—is that as they went through high school—you know, as their parents went through high school with the presence of alcohol and survived that, so they went through high school with the presence of drugs and survived that, and it is just something else that has to be a challenge to their children, something else they have to live with.

But that is why I wrote down the first thing Mr. Nakonechny said, that it is hard to get parents involved and I would submit this: If one thing comes out of this subcommittee hearing today, if parents don't get involved, we might as well all go home.

We are U.S. Congressmen. You are involved with prevention, enforcement, education, all types of fields, volunteer work. You might as well go home too. Because it is simply a matter of pointing out to the parents the absolute necessity——

What amazes me about what you have done is you saw a corner that wasn't filled and that is people take the public stand against something that stinks in society, to go out there and to wear the T-shirts and get the parents involved in doing the same thing.

Let me just make a couple of observations and suggestions. Schools send literature home on a periodic basis. Public libraries send out literature on a periodic basis. There probably isn't an organization, not a proper organization, that doesn't do that.

If there is a list of 10 things for which parents should look to see as to whether or not their kids are on drugs, if you put one of those—just one sign—dilated eyes, for example, nervousness, jitteriness, sleeping too long, inability to concentrate, any of those things are a sign that you may have a child that is at risk.

In working with so many parents—when I was in the private sector, I worked with hundreds of parents of high school kids who were caught up in the juvenile system. The same thing came back over and over and over again.

If we had only known, if somebody just told us—but I think if you put on a program at your school and say we are going to run a program on how parents can recognize whether or not their kids are involved in drugs, you might get 20 parents to show up, whereas 10 or 15 years ago, you would have 700 that would fill the assembly up.

So I think the education process—the net has to be cast in much larger terms. At least I say this not only as a Congressman—from a person who worked in law enforcement for over 22 years and now from a unique and very distinct and personal responsibility, being a parent to three children, knowing all three will be teenagers at one time—and personally that absolutely terrifies me. But recognizing the fact that when my kids are past their teens, I think that is probably 50 percent of the battle.

You wanted to say something, John?

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I agree with you. I have a son who is 25, and he teaches in the Glen Park schools, but at one point in time, we were going through 15 gallons of milk a week, my wife and I—not my wife and I, but our four children. Even on a personal level, my wife smoked two and a half packs a day for years, and she was in-

dustrial strength and we had to take her to a shrink twice and finally it caught on and she no longer smokes.

Our third son, I coached him in baseball—I coached baseball for 17 years. I come to find out—he is going to turn 21 in September—he is smoking Marlboros. I mean, figure it out, it is difficult; and I think we are pretty responsible parents. But the kid who I least expected to smoke is smoking cigarettes now.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Haines, this is pretty unique stuff. Not everybody agrees with you, especially when you say if you are trying traditional drug prevention efforts—for example, policy changes, scare tactics, refusal skills, et cetera. In the face of your detractors, you have something that is working here. We have a 16th Congressional District antidrug coalition where we bring in people from throughout the entire community. In fact, we have media people come in that are part of our group, and they are in the process of planning PSAs, and I would like to call upon your services, if you would be so kind, to help us in our PSAs, in order to gear the message.

But let me ask you a question. Do you remember the ad with the fried egg.

Mr. HAINES. This is your brain, this is your brain on drugs.

Mr. MANZULLO. Right. That does some good. You are not saying those totally don't do good.

Mr. HAINES. They sell T-shirts in almost every university bookstore around the country I have been in, and it says "This is your brain," "This is your brain on beer," that has the hard boiled egg in the bottom of a mug; it becomes the national collegiate joke.

The scare tactics have the impact of attracting attention, all the communications media say scare tactics attract attention, even negative media campaigns attract attention; but one thing they do is fewer people vote who are exposed to negative media. Fewer people who are exposed to negative substance media are affected by it, rather than being thrilled by it; it is what I call the "Jaws factor." If negative media worked for young people, people who saw "Jaws" would not go swim in the water where it was filmed. Just the opposite happened; they had to close beaches where "Jaws" was filmed because all the young people flocked to the beaches to be able to say I swam where "Jaws" was filmed. So scare tactics sometimes have the unintentional impact of exciting the population to the very behavior.

Some years ago there was the documentary called "Scared Straight," which had death row inmates talking to the camera; it was hailed as a prevention film to deter juvenile delinquency, but when it was actually studied, it found the straight kids were scared straighter by it, the majority of kids in the mainstream saw it as entertainment, and the few kids who were bent or twisted saw the people as role models.

Part of what I am talking about here is, much in the field of substance abuse prevention goes untested, is not accountable for whether or not it actually makes any difference, and I am heartened by that one facet of the tobacco agreement, as I understand it, which requires a cigarette manufacturer to show actual percentages of decrease in the number of young people who smoke tobacco in the future or they face increasing penalties.

In our field, substance abuse prevention, most of the people who receive State or Federal money don't have to show any effect whatsoever on the change of substance-taking behavior, and the grant moneys come again the next year.

Mr. MANZULLO. There are a series of ads on television now showing videotapes of children who have been killed by drunk drivers. Your observation?

Mr. HAINES. I think it will once again reinforce the message to those who don't drive drunk about how serious and dangerous it is. I think we have another phenomenon with drunk drivers, which is a tough nut to crack, is that a large majority of the people are addicted, or are people who may not intend to drive drunk and do anyhow because of their impairment in judgment. They can sit stone sober, see that and say, drunk driving is a horrible thing.

Mr. MANZULLO. They don't realize they are a threat.

Mr. HAINES. Right, and get entirely intoxicated. So to some extent we need to be working harder to empower community members at intervening. The sober people around drunk drivers who feel intimidated or impotent about being able to intervene, to intervene before a person gets in the car, because I don't even think enforcement efforts reach addicted populations for drunk driving prevention because they know they don't want to get a ticket or pay $7,000 in legal fees, but they do it anyhow, and they do it over and over again because the recidivism rate for DUI is high.

Mr. MANZULLO. Your friend Noel Mesler, who works in the county, you get out there in the squad cars and continue to arrest them, and the incidence of drunk driving has gone down nationwide. That is the good news. The bad news is, it is increasing among the young people.

But, Bob, you take programs like yours, there is no way to measure the impact or effectiveness of such a program.

Mr. MILLER. No, and that is the question I get, in 10 years what have you accomplished? I don't have an answer; we don't have any statistics.

Mr. MANZULLO. You don't have to, because all you can say—there have been a lot of congressional hearings, you say you spend all this money on beer, but things are getting worse. Well, just a second, it could be more now if you didn't have a D.A.R.E., and you can never evaluate the cost of prevention.

Mr. MILLER. Right, but I feel—and I said there were over 24,000 students. There has been one that I know of that has come to my house and was almost an alcoholic and was on cocaine. And he said, I need help; he knew I was involved with Say No to Drugs. I counseled him through my church program, and he is now a straight young man. So I have said and I continue to say, if only 1 out of the 24,000 was saved, it was worth it for my time for the 10 years.

Mr. MANZULLO. I just want to commend all of you who have bits and pieces to work with on this overall problem. Nobody here has the total answer. You struggle within the depth of your own soul to come up with the best method possible to combat this, and you have an area there and it works.

And, Sheriff, with all deference, I share with you the tremendous frustration of the agencies and organizations and task forces and

meetings and groups and so many people with different problems, and people are "meeting-ed out" because they are just so desperately trying to figure out which way to do this.

We don't have an answer in Congress, because we know something about bureaucrats in Washington, but I want to thank you and commend you and give you our best wishes for the tremendous work you have done.

Mr. HAINES. I was just going to comment on measuring prevention. I think we could borrow from some of our neighboring fields. Certainly we have some information to show how the incidence of smallpox has been reduced within a population after an intervention. We know that seat belt usage has gone up 400 percent with a legislative prevention requirement to wear seat belts and enforcement of that.

We also know with underage drinking among college students, their behavior hasn't changed at all with legislation; the same number drink today, who are 19 and in college, who drank 10 or 15 years ago before that legislation was passed.

So we do know there are outcome measures that can in fact determine whether or not there are more or fewer people in emergency rooms with drug overdoses or fewer people who are sanctioned within the school district or wherever the markers might be. There would be no farmer in this community who would buy a pesticide if it didn't show it was effective in killing insects, for reducing the populations in the fields, and I think we can apply that to our prevention efforts as well.

Mr. HASTERT. Thanks, Don. I want to make a statement and then a question.

You mentioned conflicted parents, parents who were parents of the 1960's or 1970's, that invited in one thing or another when they were students; let me say that things have changed. Drugs are different today, and most parents, I know one time heroin was 4 to 10 percent pure in the 1970's, and today it is 90 percent pure; and certainly we have a lot more kids in the hospital rooms who OD because of it.

And we have this Smashing Pumpkins band, I think is what they call it, and their people OD, and I don't know how that affects kids because they have seen the results of that type of thing. Twenty years ago, crack didn't exist. Methamphetamines were rare and certainly less potent, and marijuana today is sometimes 25 times more potent than it was in the 1960's. And then, if you do what the gentlemen talked about before, if you sprinkle it with stuff, you don't know what you have; it's a time bomb.

So times are different, too, and I hope parents get educated with what they thought was drug use, certainly can be much more magnified today.

A couple of other things. One of the things that the President has asked us to do is appropriate $175 million to aid through the Drug Czar's office to do PR, because they said we can't get free advertising anymore and we need to get information out in front of kids; and I don't know if that is going to be on MTV or where they want to put that. But if you were advising a type of PR, if that $175 million does get appropriated through the process, what kind of PR

ought to be out there? How do you reach kids? How do you get their attention?

Mr. HAINES. One point would be, not to deny the problems exist, but once the problem has been recognized, to move away from inflating the problem and, instead, tend to the solution. So solution-based public service announcements, public service announcements that don't tell us what not to do but that tell us what to do, that provide us with the skills, the power, demonstrated abilities that could be modeled in PSAs or whatever, the attitudes and norms that would protect us from harm. These are the things that people who have been offered alcohol or drugs or what have you have been able to do more successfully, and have the models to describe how they have succeeded. We don't need any more parades of people, who had difficulties, tell how they have been harmed because that doesn't empower anybody to do anything, other than first become harmed in order to become healed; and we don't want to give that person that message.

I call that the Dwight Gooden message of recovery. First you have to be an athlete that pitches high on coke, and then you become treated and give the wrong message because it says, one, we can use drugs with impunity because there is treatment.

That is the message you hear often from young people who smoke, well, everybody gives it up after they are 26 or 30 years old, so I can smoke now because it isn't going to be a problem. We want to avoid that message and give people the message that models the behavior we are trying to reduce over and over again.

Mr. NAKONECHNY. I couldn't say it better than Mike. I agree with that. I don't have my own thoughts on that per se. I am not so sure what the intent of this PR blitz—what does he have in mind?

Mr. HASTERT. I'm not sure, it is the Drug Czar, ONDCP.

Mr. NAKONECHNY. If it is going to be more automobile crashes, saying, Don't drink and drive, and there are bodies all over, I don't go along with that at all. My opinion is, you take a role model athlete not on anything and promote the positive. That is coming from professional sports, and I think they are pretty good when I see them.

Mr. HASTERT. If we get nothing more out of this hearing today, maybe the warning could be worth something.

I think we have gotten a lot out of this hearing. If anybody else has anything else to say—I think we will go ahead and dismiss the panel, and I want to say thank you very much for your time and, more than that, for what you do; it makes a difference.

I think if you try to be quantitative in this and say, everybody does this work and we still have problems, I think the problems that would face us today if we didn't have people out there trying to help them solve them would be inapproachable. And we thank you for what you do, Mr. Miller, especially you, for your volunteer work. You can't see them and you can't measure them, but there are great effects.

Mr. MILLER. I have this pumpkin your organization brought a few weeks ago when they brought the float with the donkey on it. Was it a donkey or an elephant.

Mr. HASTERT. It was an elephant, but we are not talking about that today.

I just want to finish with one thing. I had a long talk recently with a young man who grew up in Sycamore, IL, and who today is a coach at one of the major universities in this country that happens to be in Illinois. He is a head coach, and he talked about his life in Sycamore as opposed to what the life is today. He is younger than I am; he is not very old—and you appreciate that, right—and he said, you know, he grew up on a farm and he was so tickled to have organized athletics when he got in junior high and high school because they got up at 6 a.m., and at 6 p.m. they milked cows, and that is what they did; and they bailed hay and did all these things. But if he was out for a sport, he had to practice a little early, but didn't have to be home right at 3:30 and he could do these things.

This was an incentive, and he achieved and has done great things. But sometimes—you know, most kids don't have that incentive; and as you change from a really rural community to a community more suburban and more sophisticated, I know my kid's life has changed a lot different from what my life was. I grew up in a little town called Oswego, IL, which was all farms. Today you can't find a farm.

So we have to adjust and find those new challenges, and the gentlemen who were here before talked about athletics and keeping kids busy, and basically busy kids don't get in trouble. Kids that don't have things to do, or a life unstructured—parents aren't there and they have to kill time.

So I think we have learned a lot. I am not sure that there is a fix for every problem we talk about. Ironically, I think most fixes come in our own backyard, at home, what we do in our communities, what we do together to solve the problems are probably the most important thing. So I appreciate your efforts; I appreciate everybody who is here today.

What are we going to do with this information? We are not here just to sit and listen today; I hope we can take the ideas back. I hope that the ideas that we try to fashion into legislation take into account what we hear today and try to emphasize in that way. So we appreciate very much your input into this, and we have also had a request to have a public statement, so I am going to dismiss this panel and if the gentleman would like to make a public statement, I will give you 5 minutes, give your name and residence, and we will be happy to listen to what you have to say.

Mr. BENNETT. My name is Jack Bennett. I live in DeKalb. For purposes of identification only, I am a retired professor of biology at Northern and was also, for 20 years, a Republican precinct committeeman in the community.

I am very pleased that you are having this hearing, and I have been very pleased to hear almost all of the presentations. I feel better about the community right now than I did before I heard them. I think that is good.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my views on the war on drugs, as it has been, and is being conducted. I believe I share many of the goals of those who have been involved in the war in the past, especially such goals as educating our children on the consequences of the use of many of the so-called "recreational

drugs," and I would include alcohol and tobacco, both substances that I have used in the past, of course. I have been able to cure myself of tobacco for 30 years or so.

However, I wish to be clear that the shared goals does not imply that I or many in our community support any aspect of the war as now conducted, other than the educational efforts. I am reasonably certain that a large number of consumers and sellers of the so-called "recreational drugs" in the community don't share in the desire to see the drug war continue. In addition, many nonusers in the community do not share in the war in the sense, as used by the media.

For example, I have repeatedly argued that the battle is futile, is destructive to the community, it cannot be won by any of the current efforts, other than, as I mentioned, education. The war has had the effect of corrupting the officials, police and the military of almost all of the countries from Mexico through Peru, and of Southeast Asia. And our own police and other agencies have not been completely immune, as the media has so eloquently shown.

The war has led our own government to massive interference in the internal affairs of all the nations involved in illegal production, trade and transport. We have been very bad neighbors from that point of view in the way we have intervened in other countries. If other countries tried to intervene in the United States in the same way, we would be fighting wars.

The war has resulted in Federal laws that have damaged many of our individual liberties, including freedom from unreasonable search and seizures. Many judged innocent have been unable to reclaim their property. The DEA officials have requested the right to shoot down private aircraft if unable to establish contact. Fortunately, somebody had sense enough to stop that.

Repeatedly, innocent people have been damaged, and when found completely uninvolved, usually cannot even get an apology, especially from the DEA or FBI.

The war has filled our prisons with otherwise productive citizens who were guilty of the same stupidity as tobacco and alcohol users, but with a different drug. The war regularly converts foolish youngsters into criminals, rather than productive citizens. The war has failed consistently for at least 40 years, yet we show no sign of having learned any lessons from this continuous failure.

As quoted in the media, even the most successful drug war agents admit that their arrests barely dimmed the street supply. New suppliers show up immediately. The only effect is to overfill the overcrowded prisons and cost the taxpayers even more money.

As these speakers have told you earlier today, nobody has a problem getting drugs if they want it. After World War I, we tried a great experiment of making alcohol a drug, illegal. In about 10 years, it became apparent that prohibition had many deleterious effects, in addition to the fact that it didn't work.

The bootleggers, the 1920's name for drug pushers, made sure that no one who could afford their alcohol would go without. The profits they made built the organized crime system in this country and corrupted many of the enforcement agencies, the same kind of corruption that we see today all over the world in the drug war.

When our citizens came to their senses in the early 1930's and repealed prohibition, several good things happened. One, deaths from contaminated alcohol stopped, because you could buy good stuff in the liquor store, and it was properly labeled. Two, businessmen, often ex-bootleggers, made legal profits and paid taxes on them, instead of being in prison. No more otherwise productive citizens were imprisoned at taxpayers' expense for selling or consuming alcohol.

The sad fact is that, today, we have not profited from this experiment in government control of behavior and morality. Taxes are not collected on drug sales, organized crime, gangs, are enriched, and many die from overdoses because they have no way of knowing the concentrations or if the drugs are contaminated. Our citizens are mugged, robbed and murdered to pay the bill.

When we have the sense to legalize the production and sale of all drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, tax them, and require suitable purity and labeling, we can treat them like alcohol and tobacco. We can then work on educating our children about the futility of destroying their nervous systems. No more prisons filled with drug users and pushers; children will find reasons to try them, if they can find them, but will lack the lure of illegality. The money currently wasted on the DEA and similar agencies, who have not stopped or reduced the street supply, can be used for education and treatment.

I am sure there are other benefits, including safer streets, that will follow.

Clearly, the battle of drugs is not shared in its present form by the entire community. It is quite probable that most who share my view are too intimidated by the mindless propaganda to publicly speak out. I am sad that the Congress perpetuates the head-in-the-sand syndrome that has kept us from effectively dealing with this problem.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. I appreciate the gentleman and his comments, and let me give you very briefly—and I don't think we need to set a debate up here. I think you and I disagree in some of the aspects.

Let me just give you, very briefly, an experience I had. I went to Switzerland to give a speech. I was asked by the ONDCP to participate. And Zurich and all the different provinces of Switzerland, which is a very small country—I visited there about 30 years ago; it was a beautiful, pristine country, a pretty conservative country—that country today has basically legalized heroin, and they have free heroin houses, people can get up to 9 hits a day.

They also—for those people who go on heroin, have a pension system. If you declare yourself as a heroin addict, they give you a pension of 2,500 Swiss francs a year, that is about $1,300. If you are married, she will get another 2,500 francs; and if you have a child, you can claim another 350 francs, if you have a dog, you can get 500 francs. So this is how the Swiss approach this problem.

What has happened is, heroin addicts have not decreased; there is still an illegal supply because they can't get heroin that is pure enough. People who had used heroin at one age—now has crept down to lower ages of use, and they are still giving away 15,000 needles a day in Needle Park in Zurich, which was once a beautiful

place, and today it has turned that town into something that you might see in some not very desirable areas in Chicago, Boston, New York or other places.

So, firsthand, my experience is different from yours, but I have seen the legalization side, and not very good results, and I think that is where maybe you and I have a difference of opinion.

I appreciate your being here, and I think certainly the statistics and ideas that you have are sound. They come from reason and thought. I think we disagree, and I thank you for being here.

Ms. MEYER. Representative Hastert, will others in the community have a chance to make a comment and ask questions? I called your office and asked about that, and they said there would be an opportunity.

Mr. HASTERT. There will be an opportunity. You can submit written questions.

Ms. MEYER. I was told you would stay as long as we had questions and comments.

Mr. HASTERT. I am sorry, if you have a question, I will try and answer it. Is it on the issue of drugs.

Ms. MEYER. Yes.

Mr. HASTERT. Yes.

Ms. MEYER. There are several things that I believe very strongly that you as a Congressman can do to help us in our community.

You talked a lot today about the positive approach to youngsters, and prevention and rehabilitation are more important than prisons; and I understand there was a bill recently passed in Congress, which you supported, which would allow—would call for the imprisonment of children down to age 14. And I understand that our law enforcement officials all realize that this is a disaster, and that adult prisons become crime schools, if not death sentences, for our youngsters, so I would hope you would rethink that.

Also, there is a bill circulating in Congress, which I hope you will not join in with, which is denying—prohibiting affirmative action at any level, where there are any Federal funds involved. This would involve our university, and we have all indicated that youngsters need to have a goal in life, and the light at the end of the tunnel needs to be open for children of minority races, so I hope you will not join in with that bill.

Mr. HASTERT. Your name?

Ms. MEYER. I am Cecilia Meyer, and I am a coordinator for DeKalb Interface Network for Peace and Justice, and for 21 years I was a social worker in the DeKalb school system so I have been concerned about youngsters for a long time.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 11:47 a.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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ISBN 0-16-056213-9

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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