

SENATOR BROMM: Certainly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bromm, only on the issue of this so called drug free school zone, why do you think a child outside that zone should not have the same protection as a child within that zone?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, I...in theory, Senator Chambers, I'd certainly agree with you. I would like to see children have the same protection everywhere.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think...

SENATOR BROMM: In reality, the reality is that schools are...are a...a drawing card, if you will, they are a magnet for those that want to pawn off the drugs and get children started on these things. So the reason that you make it...that you try to make it very distasteful to do that around a school area is to, of course, try to persuade those people not to do that. Now that's where people find children, and that's where they take their first shot and trying to get them involved with drugs. And that's the main purpose of it, plus I think it's a reminder to kids that...that using drugs can be bad, and to have drug free school zones, you know, certainly, I think, makes a lot of sense from that standpoint also.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If there are pedophiles who would go around schools, because that's where you find children, and make their contacts there, why don't we make it a harsher punishment to commit sexual assault on a child near a school?

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We don't do that with any other offense. Can you at least see where I see a breakdown in logic by separating out this one thing which was a faddish issue and all the politicians were saying, get hard on drugs, but we don't do that with reference to any other crimes against children which are more common and more devastating.

SENATOR BROMM: Well, I see where you're coming from, except that I guess I'm under the impression, and I think I've observed that...that we have...we seem to have gotten increasing use of drugs in and around our schools, and that...you know, that goes against the grain, I think, of what we want to try to accomplish