EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION EFFORTS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY, AND HUMAN RESOURCES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION EFFORTS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY,
AND HUMAN RESOURCES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Mesquite, TX.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., at West Mesquite High School, Mesquite, TX, Hon. John L. Mica (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Mica and Souder.

Also present: Representative Sessions.

Staff present: Steven Dillingham, special counsel; and Ryan McKee, clerk.

Mr. MICA. Good morning. I would like to call this hearing of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources to order. For the information of those visiting this morning, I am John Mica, chairman of the subcommittee.

This hearing today is part of a series of national hearings that we have been conducting, across the country and also in our Nation's capital, dealing with our efforts to combat illegal narcotics. And this morning we are here in Mesquite, TX at the request of our colleague, Mr. Sessions, the gentleman from Texas. We are here to have an opportunity to learn more about effective drug prevention in our schools, and communities, which is the title of today's hearing.

The order of business this morning will be first opening statements by members, and then we will hear from our first panel. I believe we have three panels today. This is an investigations and oversights subcommittee, of the Government Reform Committee of House of Representatives. I will inform our witnesses that we ask you to limit your oral presentations before the subcommittee to 5 minutes, and we will, upon request through the chair, include in the record any extraneous material, data, information, lengthy statements for part of the official record of this proceeding today.

With those opening comments, I will proceed with my opening statement, and then I will yield to other Members.

Today, this subcommittee will examine the impact of illegal drugs in and around the city of Mesquite and the surrounding areas, including the major population center and transportation hub of Dallas. We will focus on law enforcement and community responses to drug challenges, especially promising prevention initiatives.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, I am very pleased to be holding today's here in West Mesquite High School. I want to take this opportunity to express special thanks to Representative Pete Sessions for his invitation to have the hearing here in his district. We appreciate, and I personally do, his continued support, interest, leadership and strong commitment to combating illegal narcotics and protecting public safety. I know that public service and law enforcement are matters of personal dedication and a family tradition for Representative Sessions.

This subcommittee has been one of the most active in Congress. Last year, the majority of our 28 hearings were devoted to America's drug problems, including both supply and demand policy and initiatives. This year, we are increasing the pace. Despite time-consuming congressional issues that range from trade relations to tax reductions, we are continuing our hearings and oversight of our Nation's policies and practices in combating illegal and dangerous narcotics, and also conducting field hearings throughout the United States to learn from the grassroots how we can do a more effective job in dealing with this national problem.

On May 26, we held hearings addressing the problem of drug trafficking through the U.S. mail and through commercial carriers. That was held in our Nation's capital. On May 30th, we conducted a hearing in New Orleans, LA examining local drug enforcement and prevention initiatives that included a drug testing program, which is now in the private schools and expanding to public schools. On June 1st, just a few days ago, in Orlando and the neighboring area of my congressional district, we focused on the increasingly terrible problem of what is commonly referred to as club drugs, such as Ecstasy, which have become popular at all-night parties called raves. And we found in New Orleans and Orlando, and other parts of the country, this is a new challenge that we are all facing, and a very serious challenge.

While we average more than one hearing per week, and remain actively engaged in all forms of government oversight, that is a responsibility chartered to our subcommittee, fighting illegal narcotics remains our foremost priority. This priority will continue in the future and with the full support of Speaker Hastert, who chaired this subcommittee and was responsible for some of the increased assets and attention brought to this community and this region when it was the victim of an epidemic of heroin overdoses.

Many members, including those joining us today, recognize the continued importance and urgency of this effort. We really only touched the surface of what we need to do in combating illegal narcotics. We have a very serious challenge ahead of us, including the problem of making up for lost ground due to a number of administration failures in not treating our Nation's drug epidemic seriously or expeditiously.

Today, we have some very distinguished guest witnesses and dedicated officials and citizens who are contributing in critical ways to fight the terrible scourge of drugs that threaten our States and communities. Today's witnesses serve on the front of lines of the war against drugs here in this community, and I believe they are very well positioned to understand the local threat and re-

sponses that are needed. And a part of our philosophy, and Mr. Sessions' philosophy is that we listen to the local communities and local officials and take those ideas and suggestions to Washington and try to implement that, so we can be a partner.

Many communities are experiencing success through innovative initiatives and exemplary programs. While in the Nation's capital, the word programs may conjure visions of large bureaucracies and piles of paperwork, here in Mesquite, programs and initiatives refer to local officials taking direct and immediate actions to make a difference. And often in a cost-effective manner, sometimes in contrast to the way we do things in Washington.

I look forward to learning from the local perspective and how drug and law enforcement officials and school and communities leaders deal with the serious drug threats they face here, and how they meet those challenges and learn that today on a first-hand basis. It is especially important that we obtain the insights of those who dedicate their lives to educating our youth and to assist them in reaching adulthood as healthy and productive citizens. These educators and community leaders make all the difference in influencing our youth in their behaviors, and in preventing them from abusing and dealing with dangerous drugs. While preventing the first instance of drug abuse is our highest goal, we must find ways to rescue those who appear to be on the wrong path and are now experimenting with or addicted to illegal narcotics.

Can we identify prevention and treatment approaches and programs that will stop drug abuse and reinforce individual responsibility? If we can, we must act without delay in supporting those successful approaches. Experience has shown that States, cities and communities and local community based organizations are the true laboratories of democracy that develop our most successful initiatives in combating illegal narcotics.

Examples of successful approaches in responding to the drug crisis seldom originate in Washington, DC. For example, local governments first implemented the concept and practice of drug courts. One of the first drug courts was established more than a decade ago in my home State, in Dade County, which is principally the Miami area. Over the past decade, drug courts have multiplied by hundreds in States and communities across America.

I recently introduced a bill, H.R. 4493, which is entitled, "A Prosecution Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison Act of 2000." That legislation is intended to dedicate Federal resources to assist States and communities in treating non-violent offenders who are the victims of drug addiction. The prototype of this legislation was developed more than a decade ago by a local prosecutor in Brooklyn, NY. It allows prosecutors to select a rigorous treatment program that mandates strict observance of program rules. The prosecutor has the leverage of a substantial prison sentence if an offender violates the program requirements.

Evaluation results of the program indicate high treatment retention rates, low recidivism and significant cost savings. The program promotes a common-sense effective option for prosecutors as well as a valuable opportunity to offenders who are serious about reforming their lives.

This hearing is designed to gather new information on successful drug prevention approaches. Recent experience and research indicates that there is no single solution for all communities. And I am more convinced than ever, even after conducting our most recent series of hearings, that we are going to have to find even more effective drug education and prevention programs. We have been doing our best to curtail illegal narcotics from coming across our borders, which is certainly a national responsibility.

Now we face the insidious threat of narcotics, illegal narcotics and drugs, designer drugs, being produced at home in garages, locally in incredible quantities with incredible deadly results. The hearing we held in Sacramento, CA illustrated the challenge we are faced with, and the one last week in my own home district of Orlando showed that some of these drugs, such as Ecstasy, which are readily available, and other designer drugs, make us really think that we have got to do a better job on the prevention education side, because this threat is coming at us from every direction.

It is my hope that we can work together, compare ideas, resources and all maintain our commitment to resolving probably one of the greatest challenges of our generation.

I welcome each of our witnesses today and look forward to hearing their testimony. I am pleased at this time to yield to the gentleman from Texas, and also thank him again for inviting us to his district to hear from witnesses he has helped us select, so we can do a better job. Mr. Sessions, you are recognized.

[The prepared statement of Hon. John L. Mica follows:]

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OPENING STATEMENT
Chairman John L. Mica

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,
Drug Policy and Human Resources

June 5th, 2000 Hearing:

"Effective Drug Prevention in Our Schools and Communities"

Today, this Subcommittee will examine the impact of illegal drugs in and around the City of Mesquite and surrounding areas, including the major population center and transportation hub, Dallas. We will focus on local law enforcement and community responses to drug challenges, especially **promising prevention initiatives**.

As Chair the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, we are very pleased to be holding today's hearing here at West Mesquite High School. I express special thanks to Representative Pete Sessions for his invitation to have the hearing here in his district. We appreciate and support his continuing interest and commitment to combating illegal drugs and protecting public safety. I know that public service and law and drug enforcement are matters of personal dedication and family tradition for Representative Sessions.

This Subcommittee has been one of the most active in Congress. Last year, the majority of our twenty-eight hearings was devoted to America's drug problems, including both supply and demand policies and initiatives.

This year, we are increasing the pace. Despite time consuming Congressional issues that range from trade relations to tax reductions, we are continuing our hearings and oversight of the nation's policies and practices in combating illegal and dangerous narcotics. On May 26th, we held hearings addressing the growing problem of drug trafficking through the U.S. mail and through commercial carriers. On May 30th, we held hearings in New Orleans, Louisiana, examining local drug enforcement and prevention initiatives that included drug testing in schools. On June 1st, in Orlando, Florida, we focused on the increasingly terrible problem of what are commonly referred to as "club drugs," such as "ecstasy" which have become popular at all-night parties called "raves."

While we average more than one hearing per week and remain actively engaged in all forms of government oversight, **fighting illegal narcotics remains our foremost priority**. This priority will continue in the future, and with the full support of Speaker Hastert, who previously chaired this Subcommittee and helped lead the effort to fight illegal drugs across the nation.

Many members, including those joining us today, recognize the continued importance and urgency of this effort. We have a serious challenge ahead of us, including making up lost ground due to a number of Administration failures in not treating the nation's drug epidemic seriously.

Today, we have some very distinguished witnesses and dedicated officials and citizens who are contributing in critical ways to fight the terrible scourge of drugs that threaten our states and communities.

Today's witnesses serve on the front lines of the war against drugs and are well positioned to understand the local threat and responses that are needed. Many communities are experiencing successes through innovative initiatives and exemplary programs. While in the nation's Capitol the word "programs" may conjure up visions of large bureaucracies and piles of paperwork, here in Mesquite "programs" and initiatives refer to local officials taking direct and immediate actions to make a difference. I look forward to learning from the local perspective how drug and law enforcement officials, and school and community leaders, deal with drug threats and challenges first-hand.

It is especially important that we obtain the insights of those who dedicate their lives to educating our youth, and to assisting them in reaching adulthood as healthy and productive citizens. These educators and community leaders make all the difference in influencing our youth in their behaviors, and in preventing them from abusing and dealing dangerous drugs. While preventing the first instance of drug abuse is our highest goal, we must find ways to rescue those who appear to be on the wrong path and are now experimenting with, or addicted to, illegal drugs.

Can we identify prevention and treatment approaches and programs that will stop drug abuse and reinforce individual responsibility? If we can, we must act without delay in supporting these approaches. Experience has shown that States, cities and communities are the true "laboratories of democracy" that develop most successful initiatives in combating drugs.

Examples of successful approaches in responding to the drug crisis seldom originate in Washington, D.C. For example, local governments first implemented "drug courts". One of the first drug courts was established more than a decade ago in Dade County, Florida. Over the past decade, drug courts have multiplied by the hundreds in States and communities across America.

I recently introduced a bill -- H.R. 4493 ("Prosecution Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison Act of 2000") -- which is intended to dedicate federal resources to assist States and communities in treating nonviolent offenders with drug addictions. The prototype of this program was developed more than a decade ago by a local prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York. It allows prosecutors to select a rigorous treatment program that mandates strict observance of program rules. The prosecutor has the leverage of a substantial prison sentence if an offender violates program requirements. Evaluation results of the program indicate **high treatment retention rates, low recidivism and significant cost savings. The program provides a common sense, cost-effective option for prosecutors, as well as a valuable opportunity to offenders who are serious about reforming their lives.**

This hearing is intended to gather new information on successful drug prevention approaches. Recent experience and research indicates that there is no single solution for all communities. We must work together, share ideas and resources, and maintain our commitment.

I welcome each witness and look forward to your testimonies.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much, and I would like to ask unanimous consent for my statement to be inserted into the record.

Mr. MICA. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to publicly thank today not only you, as the chairman of this subcommittee, but also the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Souder, for your commitment, to the effective use of law enforcement resources in fighting drugs and the scourge of drugs on America, our children, and the people who are engaged in the activities in our schools. Also, I would like to thank you for taking time to come for your second time to West Mesquite High School.

As a former member of the Committee on Government Reform, I became interested from the first day I set foot in Congress about the drug problem that we have in our country. Both of you have been tireless fighters in finding what the problem is and effective resources to defeat this problem.

Today, we have before us a series of men and women who are engaged, in the defense of our children and in law enforcement in the battle against drugs. I have asked each of these people to be here because I believe that they represent the very best, of not only our cities and our schools, but also represent people who are not weary. Not weary of fighting against drugs. And I would like to tell them, Mr. Mayor and Mr. Assistant Police Chief, Mr. Special Agent in Charge of the DEA here in Dallas and Mr. Constable, we are not weary in Washington. We will continue to work with you. We will work with you on effective programs and policies that will make your job easier. We will work with you on stopping drugs, not only at our border but also where they are manufactured, and the making of those drugs, wherever they are around the world. And I want you to know that the job that you do and the input that we receive here, in fact, does matter.

From the hearing of 2 years ago, in 1997, it led to the most comprehensive updating of a law called the Drug Trafficking Life Imprisonment Act of 1997, where we worked specifically with the methamphetamine problem. I will take the testimony that you give today and your ideas, and combine with Chairman Mica and Congressman Souder on an effective, continuing drug effort in Washington, DC to make sure that what we do is listen to you, to utilize the testimony and feedback that you give us, and make that effective, not only here in Dallas and Mesquite, TX, but all across this country.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for doing this, and I thank you for your time and attention to the needs of Texas and the things which we have to contribute to this war on drugs.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Sessions. And I will recognize the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Souder.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Pete Sessions follows:]

Congressman Pete Sessions
Opening Statement
June 5, 2000

Good Morning, I'd like to thank Chairman Mica, Congressman Souder, and all the witnesses for taking time to be with me today and share your experiences fighting the drugs infecting our schools and communities. It is my hope that this hearing will shed new light on solutions to the increasing drug problem facing our nation.

Previously, in 1997, I held a hearing similar to this, in this very High School on the increasing Methamphetamine (or meth) trafficking through the Dallas area. As a result of the hearing and efforts by local law enforcement officials, schools, and community groups, I was able to get the Dallas area named a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), essentially bringing thousands of dollars in program funds and resources into our community. A HIDTA designation allows a community to combine the resources, experience, and intelligence of local, state, federal, and military drug enforcement agencies and personnel. I am pleased to note that resources provided to the HIDTA programs nationwide have grown from $25 million in FY1990 to over $190 million in FY2000.

I am a father of two small boys, who I know will face pressure one day to use drugs such as meth, marijuana, or ecstasy. I have read, with alarm, recent statistics noting the increase of drug use among children at a much younger age than statistics showed just five years ago. In fact, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program has begun offering its curriculum to the 5th/6th grade students because of the increased drug use seen in students these ages. We must increase our efforts to reach these children before they reach for drugs.

I am pleased to host this hearing, which I hope will bring local solutions to a national problem. All of our witnesses today have the experience and knowledge to do so. Your ideas for what works to fight drugs in Mesquite, may be what works to fight drugs in St. Louis, Detroit, or Portland. I thank you for sharing your time and solutions with us today, and I look forward to working with you to rid our community and schools of drugs.

Mr. SOUDER. I want to thank Congressman Sessions for inviting us here, Congressman Mica for his leadership, not only as a Member of Congress, but both of us were Senate staffers, and he was one of the original guys who put together much of the first rounds of these drug wars. And then we seemed to back off for a while, and bang, it is back again. We have to spend another 10 years trying to undo the damage that came.

We are also not just focusing on interdiction and law enforcement. Congressman Sessions has been a tireless crusader in all these different areas. But we in the Education Committee have been dealing with the drug-free schools question, the, let us just say lack of consistent effectiveness in prevention programs. And we are constantly looking at these type of things at the school level, trying to figure out how to give schools more flexibility, how this issue mixes with school violence.

We have had multiple hearings over in Education with the kids and teachers from Columbine, from Rice Lake in Washington, from Paducah, KY, from Springfield, OR—almost every area of the country where they have had the school violence, often which is very closely tied to the drug issue, very closely tied to families, not just broken families, but families who are not spending time with their kids, and schools are just overwhelmed with a whole flood of these kind of problems.

But what is our alternative? I mean, as Congressman Sessions said, we cannot get tired. These problems have always been there, they are rooted in deeply seated social problems. If we back off, they just get worse. We cannot give up on school violence, we cannot give up on anti-drug efforts. We have to look at continually evolving solutions. And law enforcement is a key part of that, because even drug courts, which are one of the most innovative ways to work with young people and with adults who are abusing drugs, require the enforcement component behind it.

Prevention programs, when you are talking to kids at school and say, we want you to do the right thing, because you would not want to wind up in jail the rest of your life. In other words, even when we do the carrots, if you do not have an effective stick with it, the carrots are not going to work.

So this is a good hearing today. I am very interested because it has a diverse mix of the panel, of showing how these things interrelate in the community, and should be very helpful to us.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. Mr. Souder moves that the record be left open for a period of 2 weeks.

Mr. SOUDER. So moved.

Mr. MICA. It is impossible at a congressional hearing to have everyone who would like to testify, testify, because of time constraints. So sometimes our panels represent a sampling, and other individuals or organizations who would like to submit statements for the record can contact Mr. Sessions or directly through the Chair, and their statements will be made part of the record. So without objection, the record will be left open for a period of 2 weeks.

Again, this is an investigations and oversights subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. We have this morning three panels. I will introduce our first panel, and then I will swear each

of our witnesses in, which is customary, given our responsibility and charter.

The first panel today consists of the Honorable Mike Anderson who is mayor of the city of Mesquite. The second witness is Gary Westphal, and he is the assistant chief of police of the city of Mesquite. We also have the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Mr. Seib. The final witness is the Honorable Mike Pappas, who is the Dallas County Constable.

If you all would please stand to be sworn.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MICA. Please be seated.

The record will reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative. We will now proceed with our first witness, and we are indeed delighted to be in Mesquite, Mr. Sessions' district, and have as our first witness today Mike Anderson, the mayor of Mesquite.

Welcome, sir, and you are recognized. I know you have a time constraint this morning, if you want to make your opening statement and leave, what we will do is we will go through and ask questions afterward. And we may submit to you any additional questions. You are recognized, sir.

STATEMENTS OF MIKE ANDERSON, MAYOR, CITY OF MESQUITE, TX; GARY WESTPHAL, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF MESQUITE, TX; FRANK SEIB, ACTING SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND MIKE PAPPAS, DALLAS COUNTY CONSTABLE

Mayor ANDERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Congressman Sessions for bringing this hearing to our community. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I would like to begin by telling you about Michael. At the age of 15, Michael was well on his way to becoming nothing more than a statistic. He was a child growing up in a home with a drug-addicted father, and had already chosen a gang as his extended family. But gratefully, Michael was introduced to two programs created to motivate youth in Mesquite. And for once in his life, Michael was interacting with positive role models that seemed to actually care about his future and offering him guidance and support.

By the time he was 17, Michael had not only left his gang, he became a teen leader for the Mesquite Police Department and spoke to younger teens about the dangers of drugs and gang involvement. He went on to graduate from high school and was hired by a large successful company in Dallas.

But that is not the end of the story. While working at his new job, Michael, along with his supervisors, began to notice computers, printers and other office equipment disappearing from the company. Michael kept his eyes and ears open and he learned who was committing the thefts. He turned the names of these individuals in to his supervisor and when offered the known reward for the information, he refused.

Michael has gone from being a member in a gang committing illegal acts to a successfully employed member of our society that helps prevent illegal acts.

As mayor, and more importantly as a citizen of Mesquite, I am very proud of the programs our community has developed in the

fight against drugs and the success we have achieved. Our current approach to this fight began in 1989 when Mesquite began seeing some disturbing trends developing with youth gang participation and gang-related criminal activity. The numbers were not significant yet, but we knew where we could end up if we denied there was a potential problem. And let me stress how absolutely essential it is for communities to look critically at themselves, and recognize and admit if drugs have become a problem in their community.

The city manager and superintendent of schools found themselves discussing Mesquite's situation, and ultimately agreed that what we had was not just a police problem or a school problem, but ultimately agreed that what we had was a community problem. Gangs and drugs are a community problem that exist everywhere.

That conversation set in motion the development of a community-based partnership known then as the Youth Services Steering Committee that brought together the resources of the city, the school district and the business and faith communities in our community to focus attention on the needs of Mesquite youth. Direction given to the committee was to look for ways to address this and other troubling trends involving our youth.

Interesting and fortunately, the committee saw the solution and programs for all youth, not just the troubled youth. As a result, the Youth Intervention and Education Project was developed, and this project and its programs have had a significant effect on youth gang activity in Mesquite. Given its success, we have realized the Mesquite message for developing successful youth programs is to consider proactive, not reactive, approaches to youth issues. By investing energies on the front end of the problem, we think drug use can be prevented and many more lives saved.

At this time, I would like to introduce assistant chief of police, Gary Westphal, who has been responsible for a lot of these programs since 1989, to speak to you in greater detail about Mesquite's experience and youth intervention and education projects. Gary.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mayor, and you are recognized, Mr. Westphal.

[The prepared statement of Mayor Anderson follows:]

Effective Drug Prevention Efforts in our Schools and Communities

Congressional Public Hearing

June 5, 2000

Remarks by Mayor Mike Anderson, City of Mesquite

Thank you this opportunity to speak with you today.

I'd like to begin by telling you about Michael. At the age of 15, Michael was well on his way to becoming nothing more than a statistic. He was a child growing up in a home with a drug-addicted father and had already chosen a gang as his extended family. But gratefully, Michael was introduced to two programs created to motivate youth in Mesquite. And for once in his life, Michael was interacting with ***positive*** role models that seemed to actually care about his future and offer him guidance and support. By the time he was 17, Michael not only left his gang, he became a teen leader for the Mesquite Police Department and spoke to younger teens about the dangers of drugs and gang involvement. He went on to graduate from high school and was hired by a large and successful company in Dallas.

But that's not the end of the story. While working at his new job, Michael, along with his supervisors, began to notice computers, printers and other office equipment disappearing from the company. Michael kept his eyes and ears open, and he learned who was committing the thefts. He turned the names of these individuals in to his supervisors and when offered the known reward for the information, he refused. Michael has gone from being a member in a gang committing illegal acts, to a successfully employed member of our society that helps ***prevent*** illegal acts.

As Mayor, and more importantly as a citizen of Mesquite, I am very proud of the programs our community has developed in the fight against drugs and the success we have achieved. Our current approach to this fight began in 1989 when Mesquite began seeing some disturbing trends develop with youth gang participation and gang-related criminal activity. The numbers weren't significant yet, but we knew where we could end up if we denied there was a potential problem. Let me stress how absolutely essential it is for communities to look critically at themselves and recognize and admit it if drugs have become a problem in their community.

The City Manager and Superintendent of Schools found themselves discussing Mesquite's situation, and ultimately agreed that what we had was not just a police problem or a school problem. Gangs and drugs are a community problem. That conversation set in motion the development of a community-based partnership, known then as the Youth Services Steering Committee, that brought together the resources of the City, the School District and the business and faith communities to focus attention on the needs of Mesquite's youth.

The direction given to the committee was to search for ways to address this and other troubling trends involving our youth. Interesting, and fortunately, the committee saw the solution in programs for ***all*** youth, not just those in trouble. As a result, the Youth Intervention and Education Project was developed. This project and its programs have had a significant effect on youth gang activity in Mesquite. Given the success we've realized, Mesquite's message for developing successful youth programs is to consider ***proactive, not reactive***, approaches to youth issues. By investing energies on the front end of the problem, we think drug use can be prevented and many more lives saved.

At this time, I'd like to introduce Assistant Chief of Police Gary Westphal to speak to you in greater detail about Mesquite's experiences and the Youth Intervention and Education Project.

Mr. WESTPHAL. Thank you for allowing me to come before you today.

As the mayor mentioned, the Youth Services Steering Committee was formed and eventually became the Youth Service Advisory Committee. By brainstorming the specific problem at hand, one proposal came from the youth members serving on the committee that we feel confronts the problem and is effective in dealing with youth crime in Mesquite. This innovative project consists of three tiers. The project is called, as the mayor said, Youth Intervention and Education Project.

By understanding of the way school-age youth perceive police, this could allow the committee to devise a plan that would eliminate false fears and perceptions and cause a decline in gang offenses. Specific results of these meetings included the inception of three programs to deal with cultural barriers, fear of violence, self esteem, teamwork building and education. The three tiers to the program include Slama-Bama-Jama, Evening with a Cop, and Ropes Challenge Adventures Course.

Slama-Bama-Jama, at the top of the tier, is a high-profile event developed in 1990 that conveys an anti-gang, anti-violence, anti-drug, alcohol message to the students through drama by utilizing cultural symbols such as music and athletics. An anti-gang violence message is acted out in skits by officers and high school students. The program is presented for youth at all city middle schools. Police officers and selected high school student actors use high-flying basketball stunts, contemporary music, smoke and lights combined with drama to get across their message of hope to the students in attendance.

Evening with a Cop is the second tier of the Youth Intervention Education Project. This program consists of evenings where a balance of selected at-risk students and student leaders are given tours of the police department and then taken out at the city's rustic day camp. Students are driven in the department's mobile command unit for the evening meal, games and discussions around the campfire at the day camp.

This particular tier of the program was designed to allow middle school students the freedom to develop a camaraderie with police officers, along with city and civic leaders of the community. One highlight of this particular tier is the first-hand look at the police work as the group follows calls dispatched to district patrol units. Participating in this portion of the Youth Intervention and Education Program allows the students to experience a seeing real life through the eyes of police officers. The police department has expanded this program, offering it both high school and middle school students. We believe that both are age groups that can be effectively served through this program.

The third tier of the Youth Intervention and Education Project is the Ropes Challenge Adventure Course, developed in 1992. Officers meet with selected students from area middle school and high schools. The program usually begins on a Friday morning with students receiving a tour of the police department, which would include jail, communication, polygraph, internal investigation, patrol and court. Students are then picked up in the police department's mobile command unit, and chauffeured, along with officers, city

and civic leaders, to the city-owned day camp site. Activities include basketball, volleyball and various games. Friday evening meals are by an open campfire at the day camp where the group can tell stories, sing songs and interact through topical discussions on any subject in a neutral, relaxed setting.

A presentation is also given by a motivational speaker on various topics including anti-gang, anti-drug and sexual responsibility information. Often the mayor and city council members will participate with the youth to show their support to them and the program. You might see them pitching a tent, playing volleyball, throwing Frisbee, singing, dancing or just being involved in a one-on-one conversation with a student.

On Saturday, the real fun begins when the students, officers and guests participate together in the ropes courses. The courses by name are the zip line, pamper pole and the wall, which physically and mentally challenge all participants. These courses are non-discriminatory in nature and designed to promote safety, teamwork, self esteem and build a camaraderie between students and officers.

The reputation of the Mesquite Police Department has been enhanced immeasurably. Citizens, educators, business people, media representatives and others have all been exposed through these programs to professional police officers who are highly motivated, highly skilled, highly qualified and highly committed to the community and to the youth, the young people in our community. That obvious level of commitment, skill and dedication pays dividends in the many contacts between the police department and the public. The public is tremendously supportive of the agency, and the agency, in turn, is more service oriented. The synergy developed by that process is very effective in terms of the success of the police mission.

The Youth Intervention Project has been seen as a catalyst to the decline in youth gang and drug activity in Mesquite for the past 7 years, as well as for the decrease in total crime experience of the city since the inception of this project. It can also be seen as the catalyst to the city's true commitment to community policing. With the success of this program came expanded programs designed to further buildupon the foundation formed by the coalition provided by the city, school, clergy and police officials willing to abandon territorial jurisdictions and work for the common good of this community.

Thank you.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony. And I would like to now recognize Frank Seib. He is the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the DEA office here. You are recognized.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Westphal follows:]

Testimony of Gary Westphal
Assistant Chief of Police, City of Mesquite Texas
For the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
June 5, 2000

Thank you for allowing me to come before you today. In 1989, the City of Mesquite and other Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex municipalities were being confronted with youth gangs and youth crime associated problems. With this becoming an area wide problem, the Police Chief decided to be among the first to publicly admit his city was suffering from this phenomenon. Understanding the situation, the Chief of Police, the City Manager and the Superintendent of Schools called the community together to seek effective strategies for dealing with this threat.

Although the city had experienced typical levels of juvenile crime, those crimes had typically been minor property crimes such as shoplifting and other thefts, minor vandalisms, underage drinking, traffic violations, etc. With the apparent migration of gang problems from both coasts to middle America and from the major cities to the suburbs, suburban cities in the D/FW metroplex began to experience organized gang activity, including drive-by-shootings and other violent activities. At the same time, the Police Department began to realize the positive approach toward policing in general. While the youth issues provided a primary motivation toward community policing, the advantages of the concept to all aspects of the organization mission became apparent.

City officials, educators, youth, neighborhood leaders, clergy, and members of the business community combined to form a Youth Services Advisory Committee. By brainstorming the specific problem at hand, one proposal came from the youth members serving on the committee that we feel confronts the problem, and is effective in dealing with youth crime in Mesquite. This innovative project consists of three tiers. They are simultaneous in nature. The project is called the "Youth Intervention and Education Project."

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Reduction of youth crime, specifically gang related.
- Improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- Increase citizen involvement in Crime Prevention efforts.
- To involve youth in peer-pressure and self-esteem developmental programs.
- To become a focal point through which other crime prevention programs could be developed and gain prompt acceptance.

Round table discussions were specifically set up between middle and high school students, along with police officers to encourage open uninhibited communications. During the brainstorming sessions of this diverse group, the students on the panel expressed the desire for a better understanding and relationship between themselves and the police. One student stated that the presence of a police officer at school only meant there was trouble somewhere on campus.

By understanding the way school age youth perceive police, this could allow the committee to devise a plan that would eliminate false fears and perceptions, and cause a decline in gang offenses. Specific results of these meetings included the inception of three programs to deal with cultural barriers, fear of violence, self-esteem, teamwork building and education. The three tiers to the program include **Slama Bama Jama, Evening With a Cop** and **Ropes Challenge Adventure Course.**

Slama Bama Jama, at the top of the tier, is a high profile event developed in 1990, that conveys an anti-gang, anti-violence, anti-drug/alcohol message to the students through drama, by utilizing cultural symbols such as music and athletics. An anti-gang/violence message is acted out in skits by officers and high school students. The program is presented for youth at all city middle schools. Police officers and selected high school student actors use high flying basketball stunts, contemporary music, smoke and lights, combined with drama to get across their message of hope to the students in attendance.

After a review of the 1992 program (involving student suggestions) the idea of using a casket was conceived. Local businesses were instrumental in purchasing and donating the casket to the police department. A scenario of loud gun shots followed by a real casket being brought into the gym with a student actor emerging from it, brings home through visual aid, the very real possibilities of gang involvement. In 1995, again involving student suggestions, a jail (made of pipe) was added to illustrate the enforcement aspect of youth violence and gang activity. The casket along with the jail, added an emotional punch to the program that students do not forget.

The City of Mesquite purchased baseball style trading cards for each officer participating in the program. Each card features the individual officer's picture with biographical data. The conclusion of the program offers the officers opportunity to reinforce their message with a more personal contact with each student.

The Youth Services Advisory Committee continually meets to evaluate and change or upgrade juvenile programming in Mesquite. Community response to the program has been outstanding. The relationship fostered between police and students as a result of this program can be exemplified in the following letter sent to the Police Department by a middle school student that learned from the message of the program.

> *Dear Mesquite Police:*
>
> *Thanks for coming to Agnew Jr. High. My favorite part (Slama Bama Jama) was about the gangster. That part was most like real life. It made me think of what I was going to do with my life. The basketball part made me think I could reach new heights if I just try hard enough. Thanks for everything.*
>
> *Signed:*
> *James Thomas*

Evening With a Cop, is the second tier of the "Youth Intervention and Education Project." This program consist of evenings where a balance of selected at-risk students and student leaders are

given tours of the police department, then taken out to the City's rustic day camp. Students are driven in the department's Mobile Command Unit (motor home) for the evening meal, games and discussions around the campfire at the day camp. This particular tier of the program was designed to allow middle school students the freedom to develop a camaraderie with police officers, along with city and civic leaders of the community. One highlight of this particular tier, is the first hand look into police work as the group follows calls, dispatched to district patrol units. Participating in this portion of the Youth Intervention and Education Program allows the students the experience of seeing real life through the eyes of a police officer. The police department has expanded this program offering it to both high school and middle school students. We believe that both age groups can be effectively served through the same program.

The **Evening With a Cop** program was developed in 1991 at the request of officers, feeling they could have more of an impact on the students lives if they participated one on one. The program is flexible so that the needs of the students may be properly addressed. The focus of the "Youth Intervention and Education Project" is to establish a dialogue between students and police, and build a positive understanding between the two groups. Once these goals have been accomplished the police officer can act as role model, informal counselor, and friend.

The youth members of the Youth Advisory Committee stated they felt that anytime a police officer came onto a school campus, it had a negative connotation. The students came up with the idea of creating situations for positive police contact. Much of this process acts upon the belief that any measures helping to re-establish the self-image of these youth are beneficial.

The purpose of the "Youth Intervention and Education Project" is to gain positive relationships with the youth. By providing positive role models, building and reinforcing self-esteem, promoting current and future education, and by relating to youth as partners in life and leaders of tomorrow, our goal will be accomplished. Police officers are used due to their interest in helping people and ability to inspire mainstream values in youth.

The "Youth Intervention and Education Project" is innovative because it is home grown, flexible, and pragmatic. During the initial search for strategy no experts with hard solutions could be found. The community and city government had the self confidence to draw upon local resources for answers. Through a united effort between police and community, this program was initiated. In the past, other means were used to arrive and implement programs. The "expert from afar" approach was abandoned for home grown programs.

This pro-active, one-of-a-kind project was developed to provide creativity and flexibility. Changes continue to be made to improve upon performance because the source and authority is local. The police department, community, youth, and school district, work as a "team" to build positive relationships for youth and thereby creating a better Mesquite for all its citizens and surrounding communities.

While a safer school climate is impossible to document completely, we know that students feel safe by their responses to school surveys. That element is a very important factor in student

learning; in fact, it is one of the tenets of the Effective Schools Research. The project has resulted in better information for young people as they make like choices in their youth that will have profound impact on their futures. They have solid information about life choices and have a cadre of positive role models in the Mesquite Police Department. As we all know, these role models may be lacking in many homes today.

Based upon observations and reports from students, parents, school officials, and police officer participants, the program has far exceeded the intended goals to date without adverse or unexpected results. Officers are now being noticed by youth and are being reacted to in a positive way. The students retain the message because of the unique style used by the presentation.

The third tier of the "Youth Intervention and Education Project" is the **Ropes Challenge Adventure Course,** developed in 1992. Officers meet with selected students from area middle and high schools. The program usually begins on a Friday morning with students receiving a tour of the police department, (jails, communications, polygraph, criminal investigations, patrol, and court). Students are then picked up in the police department's mobile command unit (motor home) and chauffeured along with officers, city and civic leaders to the city owned day camp site. Activities include basketball, volleyball, and various games. Friday evening meals are by an open camp fire at the day camp, where the group can tell stories, sing songs or interact through topical discussions, on any subject in a neutral relaxed setting. A presentation is also given by a motivational speaker on various topics including anti-gang, anti-drug, and sexual responsibility information.

Often the Mayor and City Council members will participate with the youth to show their support to them and the program. You just might see them pitching a tent, playing volleyball, throwing frisbees, singing, dancing, or just being involved in one-on-one conversation with a student. On Saturday the real fun begins when the students, officers, and guest participate together in the ropes course. The courses by name are the "zip line", "pamper pole", and the "wall", which physically and mentally challenge all participants. These courses are non-discriminatory in nature and designed to promote safety, teamwork, self-esteem, and build a camaraderie between students and officers.

Participating officers are selected based upon interest in the program, their ability to relate to the youth, and their overall interpersonal skills. Youth Action Officers (gang unit), or School Resource Officers (S.R.O.'s) accompany the group.

Two categories of students are selected for tiers two and three of the program, role model students and youth at- risk. At-risk students are selected by school staff based upon their perceived level of being at-risk. (At-risk being defined as the students demonstrating ability to engage in anti-social behavior or perceived susceptibility to anti-social influences). The role model students selected by the schools represent, in theory, the opposite of the at-risk group.

Requests to participate in both the **Evening With a Cop** and **Ropes Challenge Adventure Course** are plentiful as parents, school counselors, and students themselves call to place their name on a waiting list.

The program is topped off with all the students participating in the program from past years, being invited back for a grand party at the Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department's rustic day camp. The evening at the camp consist of music with a D.J., Karaoke, cookouts, and again a ropes course, that most can't get enough of. A "dunking booth" that has been constructed by the city, is also used to add to the program excitement. Celebrities or motivational speakers also participate with a positive message for the youth to round out the night.
The reputation of the Mesquite Police Department has been enhanced immeasurably. Citizens, educators, business people, media representatives, and others have all been exposed through these programs to professional police officers who are highly motivated, highly skilled, highly qualified, and highly committed to the community and to the young people of the city. That obvious level of commitment, skill and dedication pays dividends in the many contacts between the Police Department and the public. The public is tremendously supportive of the agency, and the agency in turn is more service-oriented. The synergy developed by that process is very effective in terms of the success of the police mission.

The youth intervention project has been seen as a catalyst to the decline of youth/gang activity in Mesquite for the past seven years, as well as for the decrease in the total crime experience of the City since the inception of this project. It can also be seen as the catalyst to the city's true commitment to community policing. With the success of this program came expanded programs designed to further build upon the foundation formed by the coalition provided by city, school, clergy, and police officials willing to abandon territorial jurisdictions and work for the common good of the community.

Mr. SEIB. Good morning, Chairman Mica, and distinguished members of the subcommittee. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss an issue so significant and essential to our Nation. Effective drug prevention programs and education in our school systems and communities is a vital component of the Drug Enforcement Administration's overall mission.

Mr. MICA. I am not sure if they can hear you. Maybe we should move the mic. Thank you.

Mr. SEIB. Would you like me to start over, sir?

Mr. MICA. No, go right ahead. I think we caught you so far. I wanted to make sure that everyone who is attending can hear, too.

Mr. SEIB. Effective drug prevention programs and education in our school systems and communities is a vital component of the Drug Enforcement Administration's overall mission. I would like also to express my appreciation to the subcommittee's continued support of DEA in its global anti-drug efforts.

As you know, DEA is the only single-mission Federal agency dedicated to drug law enforcement. As such, the agency has developed the ability to efficiently direct resources and manpower to identify, target and dismantle drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States and abroad. These drug trafficking organizations are responsible for the proliferation of drugs, as well as significant levels of drug-related crime in our Nation's communities.

The Dallas metropolitan area, like many other metropolitan areas across the Nation, continues to experience increasing drug trafficking activity and incidents of drug abuse. Of particular concern is the alarming increase in the number of youth involved in drug abuse, and consequently emergency room and/or rehabilitative treatment. Adolescents in the Dallas area are experimenting with and abusing a wide variety of drugs. In particular, the increasing use of drugs such as Ecstasy and methamphetamine by our youth is quickly becoming one of most significant law enforcement and social issues facing our Nation today.

Recent enforcement activities conducted by personnel from the Dallas field division demonstrate a rising popularity of club drugs, such as MDMA, GHB, Ketamine and LSD among young adults. For your information, we have provided the subcommittee with a report entitled, "Club Drugs in the Dallas Field Division."

Today, young adults are using these drugs individually and in combination at all-night raves and night clubs in Dallas and surrounding areas. These rave functions, which are parties known for loud techno music and dancing in underground locations regularly host several thousand teenagers and young adults who use MDMA, LSD, GHB, Ketamine and methamphetamine.

In addition to the increase in club drug abuse in the Dallas area, heroin abuse is also the focus of national attention in north Texas. As many of you recall, Plano, TX, a city located immediately north of Dallas, reported 14 heroin-related deaths involving teens and young adults in 1996 and 1997. Shortly after the heroin overdoses in Plano received widespread attention, it became apparent to law enforcement officials that northeast Tarrant County, which is just above Fort Worth, faced a serious heroin overdose problem as well.

From August 1996 to August 1999, 53 heroin overdoses occurred in northeast Tarrant County, 25 of the 53 resulted in death.

DEA in the Dallas Field Division recognizes that the nationwide anti-drug effort requires a multi-faceted approach. Direct drug law enforcement is a major component of this strategy, however involvement in demand reduction and community-based programs is equally important. Demand reduction and community-based programs focus specifically on local youth and are designed to drive a wedge between these young individuals and a future of drug abuse and drug-related crime. In addition to these programs, the Dallas Field Division initiates intelligence-sharing conferences.

Given the nature of today's hearing, I would like to briefly discuss some of the demand reduction and community-based programs instituted by the Dallas Field Division. Since 1987, DEA has devoted one special agent from each field division to demand reduction program. Demand reduction program has several national priorities, which include prevention efforts in the areas of public awareness, community coalitions, drug-free business initiatives, supporting drug abuse resistance education, DARE, and related education programs, and re-engineering of national parents movement.

Among many other activities, Dallas Field Division personnel train DARE officers and school resource officers.

Recently the Dallas Field Division received the National League of United Latin American Citizens Award for participation in Target Kids in Court Program. This program is designed to assist children in the court system by reducing red tape in the adoption process, and to end agency turf battles that leave neglected children in limbo. The Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Division serves as a member of the steering committee in the Target Kids in Court.

The second program is the Starfish Foundation which is a nonprofit corporation founded in Plano to fight the teenage heroin addiction problem plaguing the city. The Dallas Field Division serves as a consultant to the Starfish Foundation, sharing its expertise on the local drug problem.

Furthermore, we regularly attend events by Nuestra Vida, an organization with the purpose of increasing opportunities for parental involvement in the lives of their children at school and home. The Nuestra Vida Committee holds several fairs and town meetings during the year.

In conclusion, it is quite evident that the increasing power and diversity of drug trafficking organizations operating throughout the United States and abroad demands an equally authoritative and creative response. These drug trafficking organizations seek to entrench criminal enterprise in modern society. They attempt to lure the youth of this country into the dark world of drug abuse and crime on a daily basis. The DEA and the Dallas Field Division are committed to developing and employing multi-faceted strategies to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse. The Dallas Field Division will vigorously investigate and aid in the prosecution of drug traffickers operating in the Dallas area. As always, demand reduction and community involvement will remain a high priority in the Dallas Field Division's anti-drug strategy. In many cases, these pro-

grams offer drug education, drug prevention information to vulnerable youth.

It is also important to note that we strive to enhance relationships between local youth and law enforcement personnel. These programs can and unquestionably do make a difference.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to appear before the subcommittee. I look forward to any questions that you may have.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. Now we will hear from Mike Pappas, who is the Dallas County Constable. We will have questions after his testimony.

You are recognized, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Seib follows:]

I.
II.
III. **Remarks by**

Francis E. Seib
Acting Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division

Drug Enforcement Administration
United States Department of Justice

Before

The House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,
Drug Policy and Human Resources

Regarding

"Effective Drug Prevention Efforts in our Schools and Communities"

June 5, 2000
10:00 am
West Mesquite High School
Mesquite, Texas

Note: This is prepared text and may not reflect changes in actual delivery

Statement of
Francis E. Seib
Acting Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
Drug Enforcement Administration
Before the
House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
Mesquite, Texas
June 5, 2000

Introduction:

Good morning, Chairman Mica and Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee: I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss an issue so significant to our nation. Effective drug prevention programs and education in our school systems and communities are vital components of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) overall mission. I would also like to express my appreciation for the Subcommittee's continued support of DEA and its global anti-drug efforts.

DEA is the only single-mission federal agency dedicated to drug law enforcement. The agency has developed the ability to efficiently direct resources and manpower to identify, target, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States and abroad. These drug trafficking organizations are responsible for the proliferation of drugs, as well as significant levels of drug-related crime, in our nation's communities. The Dallas Field Division employs its specialized resources in the enforcement arena to directly combat the drug trafficking organizations in our local communities. To further complement our enforcement initiatives and operations, the Dallas Field Division actively participates in demand reduction and community-based programs, which seek to educate and protect children and young adults from the dangers of drug abuse.

The Dallas metropolitan area, like many other metropolitan areas across the nation, continues to experience increasing drug trafficking activity and incidents of drug abuse. Of particular concern is the alarming increase in the number of youth involved in drug abuse and, consequently, emergency room and/or rehabilitative treatment. Adolescents in the Dallas area are experimenting with, and abusing, a wide variety of drugs. In particular, the increasing use of drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamine by our youth is quickly becoming one of the most significant law enforcement and social issues facing our nation today.

Recent enforcement activities conducted by Dallas Field Division personnel document the rising popularity of club drugs, such as MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, Ketamine,

and LSD, among young adults. These drugs are being used individually, or in combination, at all-night raves and nightclubs in Dallas and surrounding areas. These rave functions, which are parties known for loud techno-music and dancing at underground locations, regularly host several thousand teenagers and young adults who use MDMA, LSD, GHB, Ketamine and Methamphetamine. The events are advertised to appeal to the teen to mid-30 age group, which gathers in a musical psychedelic atmosphere of flashing lights, videos, smoke, fog, fire and sparks. The dance area is usually not air-conditioned; however, a cool down room is provided to prevent heat exhaustion. Drug paraphernalia include inhalers and VapoRub to further enhance the effects of the drugs.

In addition to the increase in "club drug" abuse in the Dallas area, heroin abuse was also the focus of national attention in North Texas. As many of you recall, Plano, Texas, a city located immediately north of Dallas, recorded 14 heroin-related deaths involving teens and young adults in 1996 and 1997. Shortly after the heroin overdoses in Plano received widespread attention, it became apparent to law enforcement officials that Northeast Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Texas area) faced a serious heroin overdose problem, as well. From August 1996 to August 1999, 53 heroin overdoses occurred in Northeast Tarrant County. Twenty-five of the 53 overdoses resulted in death.

The substance abuse threat in Dallas is not limited to club drugs and traditional hard drugs, such as heroin. A recent report by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) indicates that Dallas emergency room incidents resulting from marijuana use by adolescents are skyrocketing. Emergency room mentions of marijuana use by adolescents have increased approximately 70% since 1991.

Geographic Overview of the Dallas Field Division:

The Dallas Field Division encompasses roughly the northern half of the state of Texas and the entire state of Oklahoma, a total area of approximately 104,924 square miles. The Dallas metropolitan area consists of more than two million residents and is geographically located at the intersection of several major interstate highways extending North and South, and East and West. The Dallas/Fort Worth (D/FW) International Airport, the world's busiest airport in total aircraft operations, serves as the major international air corridor in the Division.

The Dallas metropolitan area is a drug consumer area, as well as a drug warehousing and transshipment point. Air and highway corridors offer numerous routes to northern and eastern portions of the United States, and many major Colombian and Mexican drug trafficking organizations exploit these routes to distribute their products to other lucrative markets, such as New York, New York, and Chicago, Illinois.

Enforcement Efforts:

The Dallas Field Division is comprised of multiple enforcement elements, including Enforcement Groups, Task Force Groups, and Diversion Groups. Two

Enforcement Groups are assigned to the Dallas metropolitan area. Four Task Force Groups are also active in the same area. The Task Force Groups result from multi-agency cooperative agreements and benefit from the pooling of resources and information sharing among a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. One of the four Task Force Groups is assigned to the North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA); another is assigned to D/FW International Airport. One Diversion Group is assigned to the Dallas area. This group is responsible for monitoring the diversion of legitimate drugs to the illicit market. Two Intelligence Groups support the investigations of the groups mentioned above.

As alluded to earlier, the Dallas Field Division participated in the multi-agency Plano Heroin Task Force, which was responsible for investigating the series of heroin overdose deaths in Plano, Texas. The Heroin Task Force investigation focused on the 14 deaths involving teens and young adults in the Plano community, their associates, and the sources of supply. On December 8, 1999, the Eastern District Court of Texas sentenced 10 defendants. Three defendants at the top of the drug distribution chain received life sentences, and the remaining defendants received sentences averaging 45 years imprisonment. The Dallas Field Division remains an active participant in the Plano Heroin Task Force today, and the Division also maintains a presence in the Northeast Tarrant County area, assisting local law enforcement in the investigation of heroin distribution cases.

Community Outreach Efforts:

The nationwide anti-drug effort requires a multi-faceted approach. Direct drug law enforcement is a major component of this strategy; however, involvement in demand reduction and community-based programs is equally important. Demand reduction and community-based programs focus specifically on the local youth and are designed to drive a wedge between these young individuals and a future of drug abuse and drug-related crime. In addition to these programs, the Dallas Field Division initiates intelligence sharing conferences as well as the programs delineated below, which target vulnerable groups within the Dallas community.

- **Demand Reduction**

Since 1987, the DEA has devoted one Special Agent from each its Field Division offices to the Demand Reduction Program. The Demand Reduction Program has several national priorities, which include prevention efforts in the areas of public awareness, community coalitions, drug-free business initiatives, supporting Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and related educational programs, and re-engineering the national parents movement. Among many other activities, Dallas Field Division personnel train D.A.R.E. Officers and School Resource Officers. Dallas Field Division managers also sit on a variety of committees in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. All levels of Dallas Field Division personnel support Demand Reduction functions.

- **Community-Based Programs**

The Dallas Field Division recently received the National League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Award for participation in the *Target: Kids in Court* program. This program is designed to assist children in the court system by reducing red tape in the adoption process, and to end agency turf battles that leave neglected children in limbo. The Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Division serves on the *Target: Kids in Court* Steering Committee. The Division Demand Reduction Coordinator has served as both Vice-Chairman of the *Target: Kids in Court* Committee, and as a working group member.

The Starfish Foundation is a non-profit corporation founded in Plano, Texas, to fight the teenage heroin addiction problem plaguing the city. The Dallas Field Division serves as a consultant to *The Starfish Foundation*, sharing its expertise on the local drug problem.

Dallas Field Division representatives regularly attend events held by *Nuestra Vida*, an organization with the purpose of increasing opportunities for parental involvement in the lives of their children at school and at home. The *Nuestra Vida* Committee holds several fairs and town meetings during the year.

The Dallas Field Division is also an active member of the *Alliance on Underage Drinking*. The *Alliance on Underage Drinking* seeks to curb underage drinking in the greater Dallas area. The Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Division sits on the Steering Committee for this organization. A Dallas Field Division supervisor sits on the law enforcement subcommittee of this organization, and another Division Special Agent participates in *Alliance on Underage Drinking* working groups.

A number of Dallas Field Division employees participate in the *Adopt-A-School* program. The Dallas Field Division has adopted the Sequoyah Learning Center in Dallas, and Division personnel volunteer to tutor children in a range of subjects. These employees devote one hour per week to an assigned student.

- **Intelligence-Sharing with the Substance Abuse Research/Treatment Community**

The Dallas Field Division is committed to intelligence sharing projects with substance abuse research/treatment organizations in Texas. The sharing of drug-related intelligence enables both the law enforcement and substance abuse research/treatment communities to better grasp the drug problem in our area of responsibility. The Dallas Field Division provides quarterly intelligence reports to organizations such as TCADA. In turn, TCADA provides epidemiological reports and publications to the Dallas Field Division Strategic Intelligence Group on a regular basis. The Dallas Field Division also participates in the annual Texas Epidemiology Work Group meetings held by TCADA in Austin, Texas.

On July 1, 1999, the Dallas Field Division Strategic Intelligence Group organized and hosted a Strategic Drug Intelligence Conference, entitled *Drug Trends in Texas and the Metroplex*. The conference was designed to address a wide range of strategic, or trend-related drug issues, and the conference was also intended to facilitate communication and cooperation among the participating agencies. Twenty-six federal, state, and local law enforcement and substance abuse research/treatment agencies attended the conference. Representatives from TCADA, the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the North Texas Poison Center, and Southwestern Medical Center were in attendance. Dr. Jane Maxwell, Chief Researcher for TCADA, was one of seven presenters at the conference.

A second conference, *Drug Trends in Texas and the Metroplex – 2000*, was held on March 23, 2000. Fifty-three individuals, representing 25 law enforcement and substance abuse research/treatment agencies, attended the conference. Based on the overwhelming support of conference participants and the growing opportunities to share information, the Dallas Field Division plans to hold biannual Strategic Drug Intelligence Conferences in the future.

- **Operation RESCATE**

On February 8, 1999, the Dallas Field Division launched phase one of Operation RESCATE (RESCUE). Operation RESCATE is a partnership between the Spanish media in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area and the Dallas Field Division. The Dallas Police Department, Fort Worth Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, and the U.S. Attorney's Office from the Northern District of Texas are also members of this partnership. Operation RESCATE provides a toll-free telephone number for the non-English speaking members of the Hispanic community. These individuals can use the toll-free number to provide drug trafficking information either anonymously, or by identifying themselves.

During Fiscal Year 1999, 827 phone calls were received on the Operation RESCATE hotline. Thirty-three calls were received during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2000. Approximately $500,000 and two kilograms of cocaine have been seized as a result of Operation RESCATE. In addition, two individuals have been arrested, one fugitive located, and substantial information has been received regarding several homicides in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The Dallas Field Division is currently planning to expand Operation RESCATE to other affected minority communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Conclusion:

The increasing power and diversity of drug trafficking organizations operating throughout the United States and abroad demands an equally authoritative and creative response. These drug trafficking organizations seek to entrench criminal enterprise in modern society; they attempt to lure the youth of this country into the dark world of drug abuse and crime on a daily basis.

DEA and the Dallas Field Division are committed to developing and employing multi-faceted strategies to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse. The Dallas Field Division will vigorously investigate and aid in the prosecution of drug traffickers operating in the Dallas area. The Division will also continue to nurture cooperative relationships with other law enforcement agencies in the area. Multi-agency task forces offer an effective method of pooling resources and information against drug trafficking organizations.

Demand reduction and community involvement will remain a high priority in the Dallas Field Division's anti-drug strategy. In many cases, these programs offer drug education and drug prevention information to vulnerable youth. It is also important to note that we strive to enhance relationships between local youth and law enforcement personnel. These programs can, and unquestionably do, make a difference.

Once again, I thank you for inviting me to appear before the Subcommittee. I look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding my testimony.

Mr. PAPPAS. Thank you, Chairman Mica, Mr. Souder, welcome to Texas. Glad to have you here. Again, thank you for the opportunity to give this statement.

Mr. MICA. You might want to move the mic. Go right ahead.

Mr. PAPPAS. Again, welcome to Texas, and thank you for this opportunity to say a few words.

We see the results of alcohol and drug abuse and the way it affects each and every one of us every day, whether as a parent, a relative, a neighbor or in law enforcement. The effects can be seen in higher insurance rates, higher prices at the grocery store or merchandise department stores. You probably even see it affect our taxes. Drug and alcohol abuse is a problem that faces each and every one of us every morning we wake up. I do not care whether you are from the family of a doctor, an attorney, teacher, plumber, fast-food server, police officer or any other profession. No one is immune, regardless of their position or financial status in the community.

Each and every one of us has choices to make, good or bad, and it is the choice that you make that affects the people who are around you. We need to start helping our youth make the right choices at a younger age now, because they are experiencing drugs and alcohol at a younger age than when we were growing up. We have to help them see that the choices they make, good or bad, have responsibility and consequences. They will be held accountable for their choices.

I had a younger brother who made some good choices in life, but also some very serious, bad choices. I come from a middle class family, went to a Catholic school and have loving and caring parents, relatives and neighbors. Somewhere along the way, my brother, who was brought up in the same environment, made the decision to try alcohol and probably marijuana. He was fairly popular in school and made good grades. Whether it was peer pressure or other outside influences, that affected his decision to try alcohol and drugs. I do not know. But it cost him his life.

Drugs and alcohol enhances a teenager's perception that they are immortal and invincible, that nothing bad will ever happen to them because they are young. Mark found out the hard way that this just is not true.

Waiting to teach the younger generation to make the right choices in junior high and high school is way too late. Kids are introduced at a younger and younger age to situations that require difficult choices. They are not any more mature than we were at that age, but with today's technology, they see and experience more adult situations a lot more.

When I took office in January 1993, we put a program in place called Together Against Drug Abuse. This program is underwritten by private business owners and now sponsored by the Texas Masons. A uniformed law enforcement officer presents a class once every 2 weeks throughout the school year to the fifth grade classes in elementary schools. The program was in three schools in 1993 and has since grown to 32 schools, presented to over 3,400 students per year. This program helps teach the youth to make the right choices and how to deal with peer pressure that they face this day and time. Our motto is, "I am special," and we reinforce, God does

not make a nobody. Teaching children to have self esteem and the pride in making right choices gives us all a brighter future. I truly believe this program works.

Also as a victim, I have personally experienced the results of teenagers using drugs and alcohol. I woke up one morning and walked outside to pick up my newspaper and saw a neighborhood that had been damaged by four individuals high on methamphetamines. Cars were spray painted, tires were slashed, acid was poured on the vehicles, houses had been egged, the church had been spray-painted in graffiti and burned. We soon found out that we were victimized by some of our own neighborhood teenagers who had been abusing drugs and alcohol for some time. The results of their choices were two did time in Federal prison, one in State prison and the youngest spent a year in the juvenile justice system. And we cannot get the hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage sustained in the neighborhood.

My experience in my family life, my profession as law enforcement officer and my involvement in the community, those who choose to abuse drugs and alcohol pay the biggest price, but we all carry the burden of their choices.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pappas follows:]

Testimony of Mike Pappas
Dallas County Constable Precinct 1
Before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
June 5, 2000

We see the results of alcohol and drug abuse and the way it affects each and every one of us everyday, whether as a parent, relative, neighbor, or in law enforcement. The affects can be seen in higher insurance rates, higher prices at the grocery store, or merchandise department stores; you probably even see it affect our taxes. Drug and alcohol abuse is a problem that faces each and every one of us every morning we wake up. I don't care whether you are from the family of an attorney, doctor, teacher, plumber, fast food server, police officer or any other profession. No one is immune regardless of their position or financial status in their community. Each and every one has choices to make, good or bad; and it is the choices you make that affect the people who are around you. We need to start helping our youth make the right choices at a younger age now because they are experiencing drugs and alcohol at a younger age than when we were growing up. You have to help them see that the choices they make, good or bad, have responsibilities and consequences. They will be held accountable for their choices.

I had a younger brother who made some good choices in life, but also some very serious bad choices. I come from a middle class family, went to Catholic school and have loving and caring parents, relatives and neighbors. Somewhere along the way my brother, who was brought up in the same environment, made the decision to try alcohol and probably marijuana. He was fairly popular in school and made good grades; whether it was peer pressure or other outside influences that affected his decision to try alcohol and drugs, I don't know, but it cost him his life. Drug and alcohol enhances teenagers perception that they are immortal and invincible, that nothing bad will every happen to them because they are young—Mark found out the hard way that this isn't true.

Waiting to teach the younger generation to make right choices in junior high and high school is way too late. Kids are introduced at a younger and younger age to situations that require difficult choices. They are not any more mature than we were at that age but with today's technology they see and experience more adult situations. When I took office January, 1993, we put a program in place called **Together Against Drug Abuse**. This program is underwritten by private business owners and now sponsored by the Texas Masons. A uniformed law enforcement officer presents a class once every two weeks throughout the school year to the fifth grade classes in elementary schools. The program was in three schools in 1993 and has since grown to 32 schools presented to over 3400 students per year. This program helps teach the youth to make the right choices and how to deal with peer pressure they face in this day and time. Our motto is **"I am special"** and we reinforce God doesn't make a nobody. Teaching children to have self-esteem and the pride in making right choices gives us all a brighter future. I truly believe the program works.

As a victim I have personally experienced the results of teenagers using drugs and alcohol. I woke up one morning and walked outside to pick up my paper and saw a neighborhood that had been damaged by four individuals high on methamphetamines. Cars were spray painted, tires were slashed, acid had been poured on vehicles, houses had been egged and a church had been spray painted with graffiti and burned. We soon found

out that we were victimized by some of our own neighborhood teenagers who have been abusing drugs and alcohol for some time. The results of their choices were two did time in Federal prison, one in State prison and the youngest spent a year in the juvenile justice system and we can't forget the hundred thousands of dollars of damage sustained in the neighborhood. From my experiences in my family life, my profession as a law enforcement officer and my involvement in the community those who choose to abuse drugs and alcohol pay the biggest price but we all carry the burden of their choices.

"TOGETHER AGAINST DRUG ABUSE"

"Together Against Drug Abuse" is a comprehensive program designed to help elementary school students in our Texas schools make correct choices when confronted now and in the future with the temptation of using tobacco, alcohol, prescription or hard drugs.

"Together Against Drug Abuse" is supported by business and community leaders, teachers, law enforcement officers and students joining together fighting drug abuse in Texas. Keeping themselves educated, informed and working hard helping each other.

Our program is "Together Against Drug Abuse" our motto is "I AM SPECIAL".

The program is primarily designed and targeted at fifth grade students. It is now being presented in the Irving, Dallas, and Garland Independent School Districts. Our program uses a uniformed law enforcement officer to present the program in the school classroom twice a month in forty-five minute sessions.

Our lesson plan covers the following topics:

(1) Self Esteem
- (a) What is self esteem?
- (b) How does it effect me?
- (c) How does it effect my classmates, my teachers?

(2) You
- (a) What do we mean when we say "you"?
- (b) Who is "you"?
- (c) Does your attitude help make up "you"?

(3) Peer Pressure
- (a) What is peer pressure?
- (b) Can peer pressure effect me?
- (c) Can peer pressure effect my classmates, my teachers? How?

(4) Drugs
(a) What is a drug?
(b) Who can give me drugs?
(c) How can drugs effect me?
(d) What kinds of drugs are there?
(e) Where do drugs come from?

The lesson plan that comes with the program will cover ten classroom presentations within a five month period. Most presentations are accompanied by an audio video tape and/or printed work sheets.

We use tapes such as:

(1) All Stars To the Rescue - cartoon characters teaching self value and helping others
(2) Yo-Ho - a boy teaching his dog the pitfalls of making bad friends, who his real friends are, how to eat and take only good food and medicine that helps your body
(3) Drugs Are A Deadly Game - how drugs can become addictive, what the results are
(4) Drugs Are For Jelly Brains - cartoon characters and students talking about why they should not use drugs
(5) An Alphabetter Answer - a tape produced by Texas school fifth graders that puts on a school play about why not to use drugs and discusses students problems at home and school
(6) How Do You Tell - elementary school students discuss how to tell friends not to use drugs or drink alcohol

Printed materials are furnished with lesson plans.

(1) Skits - group play acting about peer pressure
(2) 101 Ways To Praise A Student
(3) Quiz - on alcohol and other drugs
(4) My Coat of Arms
(5) Alcohol Is A Drug Too
(6) Pictures from magazines with advertisements about tobacco and alcohol, and how they try to fool you to use these products, etc.

One or two field trips are recommended:

(1) A trip to the courthouse to a Justice of the Peace Court, County Court, or District Court. Show and teach them how our judicial system works by allowing them to visit with a judge.
(2) A trip to a factory, plant, bank, or other business in your area. Let them see that there is a future for them if they make the right choices.

Each student will be given a T-shirt with the "Together Against Drug Abuse" logo on the front. They are reminded by their teacher of each scheduled presentation and are encouraged to wear their T-shirt. Each student that wears his/her shirt will be presented a

reward at the end of the class. Teachers will be presented shirts and encouraged to wear them. You will find your third and fourth graders looking forward to being in your program and receiving their T-shirt.

We encourage an end of the year party to reward, recognize and present each student a "Certificate of Participation" suitable for framing and signed by the principal and law enforcement instructor. This party can be put on jointly by the sponsor and the school PTA. In the lesson plan there are suggestions for your "kick-off" program and end of the year party.

The "Together Against Drug Abuse" program design on our T-shirts and our motto "I AM SPECIAL" was created and is offered for your use by Ron Carter. Ron and his family live in the Dallas, Texas area. The family owns and operates a number of businesses. Among these businesses are Home Interiors & Gifts, Inc. and our pro-basketball team The Dallas Mavericks.

Instructors in the Irving, Dallas and Garland Independent School Districts are Deputy Constables from the office of Mike Pappas, Constable Precinct 1 of Dallas County, Texas. The Carter family, Constable Pappas and the Texas Masons extend their friendship and offer this program to your school and community.

Wake-up *call*

Is anyone teaching young people right from wrong these days? BY MIKE PAPPAS

It was six o'clock in the morning March 5. Do you know where your children were? The answer: Some were in the process of turning a quiet Lake Highlands neighborhood into the twilight zone.

Picture walking outside to pick up your morning newspaper to find your neighbors looking at their homes and vehicles parked in their driveways and on the street. On their faces are looks of shock, disgust and concern. Realization begins to set in as to why.

You find that in the early hours that morning, several vehicles, including your own, were painted, tires were slashed — and in one instance, windows were broken and acid poured into the car.

Also a residence received some paint damage, and one of our neighborhood churches was heavily damaged with graffiti and by fire.

All of these acts of violence were for no apparent reason except the vehicles, residences and church were there. Many lives were affected that day: the victims who were violated, the friends and families of the suspects, the suspects, and the Lake Highlands community as a whole.

I have been in law enforcement for more than 18 years, and I have to admit it really takes something unusual to surprise me. The fact that two of the suspects (who were later arrested) were walking among us that morning and innocently asked, "what happened last night while all of us were sleeping?" didn't and doesn't surprise me.

And reading newspaper accounts that one of the suspects is feeling remorseful about damaging the church (only after being caught) doesn't surprise me.

However, what does surprise me — and shouldn't — is after being caught and showing remorse for damage done to the church, there is no remorse being mentioned about all the damage done around the neighborhood. I find my surprise fading when I ask myself what has happened to our youth not just learning the three R's in school, but also the basics in morals, ethics and responsibility.

I see this as a wake-up call to all of us, adults and youth, to remind each other "what's right is right, and what's wrong is wrong."

Needless to say, I wasn't a happy camper that eye-opening Thursday morning, and the thought of swifter justice for the suspects crossed my mind. But one good Sunday sermon and a prayer for all of those involved helped me to refocus and remember what I'm sure many of our mothers used to say to us growing up: "Two wrongs don't make a right."

So let's move on to rebuilding and making tomorrow a better day where we as families, friends and neighbors may not always see eye to eye, but we can all agree to see heart to heart.

Mike Pappas is a neighborhood resident and constable for Precinct 1.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony, and I thank each of our witnesses for their testimony.

I will start with a few questions if I may, and I will yield to other members.

First of all, to the Assistant Police Chief, how are you financing some of these prevention programs that you described? Is this strictly with local and State funds or are there any Federal funds involved?

Mr. WESTPHAL. No, sir. The Youth Services committee became a non-profit organization, and accepts donations through the local civic groups. And then of course, their salaries.

Mr. MICA. Are taxpayer dollars going into it, too?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. The salaries of the police officers, yes.

Mr. MICA. Is that local city or State funds?

Mr. WESTPHAL. That would be city funding.

Mr. MICA. You may have to pass this mic around, sir.

Mr. WESTPHAL. That, of course, would be city funding on the salaries of the police officers.

Mr. SOUDER. But only salaries? That is the only funding?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. MICA. Are there any Federal funds coming in to these projects that you are aware of?

Mr. WESTPHAL. No, sir.

Mr. MICA. Would it be beneficial, if we could do it without too many strings attached, to make funds available for these?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Oh, yes.

Mr. MICA. It would?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOUDER. Did you ask about community block grant with that? You do not think there is any community block grant money?

Mr. MICA. The question from Mr. Souder was, do you think there is any community block grant money that has gone to the State or came from State to local?

Mr. WESTPHAL. It just so happens that this year, the Slama-Bama-Jama program requires a considerable amount of equipment, at an unusual cost. And this year, the block grant money has been used to replace a lot of the equipment because this program has been in session for about 10 years.

Mr. MICA. So there could be Federal money through that program?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir, just in this instance, yes.

Mr. MICA. Or in that program.

One of the problems we have at the Federal level is we try to make funds available, but we are now trying to do that through the State and then get as much discretion. We find that creating these Federal programs, you create Federal bureaucracies and regional bureaucracies, etc., that end up skimming some of the overhead and complicating or bureaucratizing the process.

I heard the DARE program mentioned. Do you think the DARE program is successful?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, in Mesquite, we have a similar program called LETS, Law Enforcement Teaching in Schools, and it parallels DARE. It began with Federal money and has continued on.

Mr. MICA. Now privately funded?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir. Well, the salaries of the officers are funded through the city.

Mr. MICA. Let me ask you another question. We funded a $1 billion new program on drug education and primarily focusing on media buys. But it is a pretty extensive program. It is a combination of Federal funding and to the tune of $1 billion over 3 years, plus a requirement that there be an equal match from the private sector, either in donations. Some of that you may have seen on television in ads and things. Can you give us your candid assessment of that program to date?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, I guess I am not as aware of that as I should be.

Mr. MICA. Well, that is a very candid assessment, because it is designed to make people aware, so it is obviously not gotten the job accomplished.

And we are looking very critically at that. It is run now by the Office of Drug Control Policy, but a substantial amount of taxpayer dollars, plus donated services.

A question now, if I may, for our DEA representative. You talk about Ecstasy and meth in this area. Could you describe the extent of the problem? And the whole Dallas or Texas area that you may have some knowledge of.

Mr. SEIB. Mr. Chairman, the resident DEA's investigation on methamphetamine and the rave drugs, per se, methamphetamine for one, looking at our stats in 1997, we may have done 40 or 50 labs at the most in Oklahoma. Now be advised that DEA Dallas does handle all of north Texas and the State of Oklahoma. In Oklahoma alone this year, we will most likely do in excess of 300 methamphetamine labs. That is where DEA participates in the seizure. You can almost double that when you look at the State and local lab seizures. So there will be close to 1,000 labs.

Mr. MICA. So a dramatic five-times——

Mr. SEIB. That is a dramatic increase. There may have been 50.

Mr. MICA. Well, one of the things that we find with the meth being domestically produced, and it does take precursors, I might ask, where are you seeing the precursors come in this area, just for the record?

Mr. SEIB. You know, Mr. Chairman, I am not exactly certain where the chemicals are coming from. We know they are coming in from Mexico and Europe, arriving into the Dallas area. We do have a diversion program here in Dallas where we monitor chemicals and chemical companies.

Mr. MICA. You did say that DEA is now trying to work with some of these prevention and education programs, is that correct?

Mr. SEIB. Yes. We have several. I mentioned a few in my presentation. We are also working with a local operation, it is called ALOUD, it is Alliance on Underage Drinking. I sit on the steering committee of the ALOUD committee. We also participate in the Explorer Program, a law enforcement explorer, where we work with the 15, 16-year-old Explorers in law enforcement related activities, drug identification, areas like that.

We activated another program not long ago, primarily initially, it was directed at the Hispanic community. It was known as Oper-

ation RESCATE. It is an 800 line where they can call in and provide information, anonymous phone calls. To date, we have had over 1,000 phone calls. I am looking at now expanding Operation RESCATE into the black and a overall 800 line where anyone can call in. Before, we had numbers from other communities and very little from the Hispanics, so we went with Operation RESCATE which translates to operation rescue.

Mr. MICA. Is the local office making a concerted effort to deal with the media, and also the schools, to convey the danger and the problem that we are facing, particularly with Ecstasy and methamphetamines?

Mr. SEIB. Yes, sir, we are.

Mr. MICA. Could you describe them?

Mr. SEIB. One program is a red ribbon campaign. I think last year we reached out to approximately 10,000 students within the metroplex. We go out to the schools, it is during October. We explain the dangers of drugs, importance of staying away from drugs. We work, again, with the DARE program, we have officers assigned to—agents assigned to our demand reduction program. And right now it seems to be working very well.

Mr. MICA. Constable Pappas, you described a tremendous toll that narcotics and alcohol abuse took on your family, I guess, with the loss of your brother, and described even the impact on your neighborhood. And you deal at the local level, and unfortunately what you described is all too common today. This epidemic is reaching every element of our society, not only of the minorities or the inner cities, but suburban. I conducted a hearing a little over a year ago when I took over this chairmanship in one of my prosperous communities, and I think we had two city council members, and one city of Lake Mary council member from that jurisdiction told us how his son, I believe it was, had robbed and committed felonies and everything for illegal narcotics. And the other one told how he took the kids to church and everything and still lost them to narcotics.

From your local law enforcement and your personal experience, and if you were in our position at the Federal level, what are your recommendations as far as education, prevention, what can we better do with Federal resources and dollars to get a handle on this situation? Maybe you could elucidate?

Mr. PAPPAS. I would probably offer more programs to get parents involved, and to get the business leaders in the communities involved, too.

Mr. MICA. Well, the problem we have with that, Mr. Pappas, is every time we start a program, we create an incredible bureaucracy in oversight. We are trying to get away from creating the programs and letting us be sort of a partner and get the funds to States and the local communities, and then let them make the decision. Is that an improper approach?

Mr. PAPPAS. No, what you said is correct. I agree with that. And that is one of the things we are doing now in this Together Against Drug Abuse program that we have in our office. It is now statewide, thanks to the Masons, but that is a program that does not accept any kind of Federal funds or State funds at all to operate.

Mr. MICA. Well then, the other thing we find is, most of the programs that are most effective are either community or faith based. Maybe it was the mayor mentioned some of the interaction with faith-based organizations, but once you get Federal funding involved, we have people screaming from the rafters that we cannot cooperate, contribute or participate with those organizations.

What is your opinion and recommendation, again, as to how we proceed?

Mr. PAPPAS. Well, one way to proceed maybe would be to contact the different agencies in a particular community and just see what different programs they have, and see how you can maybe combine those programs and maybe give them the support they need.

Mr. MICA. Would you support the use of Federal funds to some of these faith-based organizations, or money going through local communities in the form of block grants and then allowing them to participate, or not?

Mr. PAPPAS. Yes, I would.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. I yield to Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for my absence for a minute. We had two Hispanic TV stations that were intensely interested in what is going on today, and they asked the question, which is being asked here, how do we go about getting parents involved. And that is the essence of some of what Chairman Mica is alluding to.

I have found that the power model that Mesquite is using is very important, where it involves the business community, schools, law enforcement, and then, evidently, Mr. Westphal, junior high age children, is that correct?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is there a mandatory element to this or is it all people who would be asked and it was by just acceptance?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, of course, anyone can participate in any facet of the community. And I think, in terms of what Congressman Mica was talking about, on the funding and each community, and how to set up the programming is, what we found through the suburbs in Dallas is that each community is very, very different, and we have to set them up—the programs have to be set up to accommodate that community. Some of our programs may or may not work in another community, and actually may work very, very well in some communities.

So I do not know if that answered your question, Congressman.

Mr. SESSIONS. I think it did. In other words, you think that what you did works well in Mesquite, TX, but it may not work somewhere else as easily?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Or possibly could work better, but may not work in a community that does not accept it well or does not want to participate.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Seib, if you could tell us, in your opinion—and I am sorry that I missed your testimony for a minute—we are talking primarily about schools today and communities, but with an emphasis on schools. Local law enforcement problem, DEA problem? Should the DEA be more involved in our schools?

Mr. SEIB. Yes, we should. We should be more involved. We are involved now, but the way we get more involved is through a coop-

erative effort with State and local agencies. We work with police departments, we work with the sheriffs departments, and we go into the schools, like I said earlier, on the DARE programs, the Red Ribbon program, the Explorer program. We have different ways to go in.

With additional funding, personnel, we could do more. But right now, there is a certain part of our budget that goes toward demand reduction. It is divided between the 20 field divisions, and I think we are making inroads to the children, to the schools. But with additional funding and manpower, more could be done. But to do it better, we go out to the State and local agencies.

Mr. SESSIONS. Do you have contact with, let us say for instance, a school district who would contact you or do you refer them to their sheriff's department or local police, or do you receive questions from and information from local law enforcements to where then you work with them, or do you view them as being the primary contact, and only if information leads you to the schools, or is it your mainstream and you know that is where a lot of the problems are and you are working directly? Is it a daily interaction or is it an as-needed interaction that you have with the schools?

Mr. SEIB. It is more of an as-needed. We are usually contacted by the schools, and any time we are called, we go out and we put on either a DARE presentation or some kind of drug awareness program. I think our budget in Dallas calls for, I think it is right at $50,000 to be used in demand reduction and for our actual DARE and Red Ribbon program. But we do work with the State and local agencies. For example, if we go into Flower Mound, to go to Flower Mound schools, we will contact Flower Mound Police Department and say, we are going to a school, do you want to participate? And quite often, they do the same. They will call us and say, we are having a particular function, does DEA want to participate? And when we can, personnel-wise, we do.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Westphal, are you active in MISD, with MISD in the schools?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SESSIONS. Do you do it through your officers who are on campus? Do you utilize them or do you actually know when you have got a problem and you will go in and actively work in the schools?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, I do not participate on an individual basis, but we have 14 officers assigned in Mesquite Independent School District, and they address any number of problems at the LETS level, fifth grade, and also LETS revisited at the seventh grade, and also the school resource officers at the middle school and high school level.

Mr. SESSIONS. Constable Pappas, when you have been in contact—and I know it is mostly in the city of Dallas area, although you work for the county, what do you find is the feedback from parents when you try and work with parents on what perhaps might be a first offense or beginning of a problem? What is the general feedback that parents provide you? Do they care? Are they interested? Do they appreciate what you are doing?

Mr. PAPPAS. The parents are usually fairly supportive of what we are doing out there. But you know, like I said earlier, or like was said earlier, drugs in my area are readily available because it is a

higher-income area and they can afford the drugs. But we get a lot of support from the parents in the programs that we are doing out there, and they are usually fairly supportive.

Mr. SESSIONS. Do you think parents recognize how to spot problems, or when you come to them, that they recognize that it is not a slap on the wrist, but perhaps could lead to a lifetime on drugs or perhaps incarceration or their death?

Mr. PAPPAS. I think a lot of parents do recognize a problem, but I think sometimes those parents tend to ignore that problem also.

Mr. SESSIONS. And let law enforcement pick it up first?

Mr. PAPPAS. Either that or that it will go away.

Mr. SESSIONS. They think it will go away?

Mr. PAPPAS. They think it will go away.

Mr. SESSIONS. How effective do you believe the schools are in spotting the problems and then doing something about it?

Mr. PAPPAS. I think the schools are fairly effective at spotting the problems and able to deal with it with their police departments.

Mr. SESSIONS. So from a local perspective, you would say you hear from the schools, you work well together, and you believe that they spot problems, or you do, too, because you have a working cooperation with your officers in our schools, and that they do not blow something off, that they do something about it?

Mr. PAPPAS. Yes.

Mr. SESSIONS. OK. Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Sessions. Now yield to the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Souder.

Mr. SOUDER. I like Mr. Pappas' statement, clearly used to testifying in front of our committee. I mean, you have joined distinguished people like Attorney General Reno and Craig Livingstone, all who also took the oath as we did our investigation. I like usually fairly supportive, which means that sometimes they are not because they are in denial and so on.

Just for the record, because particularly after Mr. Westphal's comments that each place is a little bit different so that those who read this testimony later, and including me can understand, is a constable like a sheriff?

Mr. PAPPAS. Very similar. The only difference between the constable and the sheriff is, we do not manage the jail. We put them in jail, we do not manage the jail.

Mr. SOUDER. All right. Dallas County, I saw a reference in your program guide that it includes Irving and Garland School Districts?

Mr. PAPPAS. They are not in our precinct, but we do have schools in those particular school districts. My area covers primarily Dallas, primarily downtown, north of the tollway to LBJ, LBJ east to the Garland, Mesquite city limits and then south and back to town.

Mr. SOUDER. And to describe the areas that we are mostly dealing with here, partly Mesquite, it would be middle, upper-middle more, or is there a mix?

Mr. PAPPAS. It would be a big mix.

Mr. SOUDER. What percent Hispanic and minority?

Mr. PAPPAS. I would say probably 20 percent Hispanic. You are talking about racial-wise, correct?

Mr. SOUDER. Right. Racial and——

Mr. PAPPAS. I would say probably 20 percent Hispanic, maybe that much African-American and the rest is Caucasian.

Mr. SOUDER. So it is a pretty diverse mix in this area?

Mr. PAPPAS. It really is, yes.

Mr. SOUDER. And that would be even more true if you moved toward the center part of the area you described in your precinct?

Mr. PAPPAS. No. As you get close to the center of it, or the north of it, northeast of it and northwest of it, you have Highland Park, you have Lake Highlands, you have North Dallas, and you have predominantly Caucasian area with upper income.

Mr. SOUDER. Even inside the city?

Mr. PAPPAS. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. So it is not like a typical, maybe like the north side of Chicago, it is not like a typical urban area although you are starting to see this pattern with different suburbs, but it is helpful.

As someone who strongly believes that, without kids changing their self esteem, without understanding that they are loved and how they are created, I believe that is fundamental because drug abuse is not what starts the problem, it is something else and then they go to an artificial substance. But you said in here, we reinforce, God does not make a nobody. Is that part of the program?

Mr. PAPPAS. It is not really a religious program. It is just that that is the only thing we really mention about God in the whole program, is that God does not make a nobody. The program is primarily geared toward just making the correct choices in life, and dealing with peer pressure. Like I said, there is no religion tone really to it, except for that one statement.

Mr. SOUDER. That is a wonderful statement, I did not mean to discourage you with it.

Mr. PAPPAS. You are not discouraging me, I just wanted you to know that.

Mr. SOUDER. I wanted to pursue some particular questions with Mr. Westphal, some technical things. You said you had 14 officers in the schools?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOUDER. Out of how many total officers do you have?

Mr. WESTPHAL. 202.

Mr. SOUDER. And you made a reference, and the mayor did also, that there has been, particularly in Mesquite, you were worried about the trend line, you plunged in and there has been a drop in crime?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOUDER. Has there been a drop in gangs?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOUDER. How do you measure that? Number of estimated members?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, there are 31,336 students in the Mesquite school district. Less than one-half of 1 percent of those are actually the kids that we have to target.

Comparatively speaking, our numbers, compared to some of our other suburban cities in the metroplex are tremendously down in terms of gangs and gang members.

Mr. SOUDER. Arrests?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Sir?

Mr. SOUDER. By arrests, is that what you mean?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, by the actual members of gangs, by the actual number of gangs, and by the actual offenses committed by gangs.

Mr. SOUDER. And then have you also seen a drop in drug crime?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, that is a very difficult question. People ask us that at our crime watch meetings, they ask us at PTA meetings, and to just tell you the truth, I do not know how to comment to it, because just as sure as I think that we are getting a handle on it, or at least getting into the middle of it, something will surface, something else will happen, and then there will be a dozen kids involved in some type of drug, the drugs that Mr. Seib described, or something new that they concoct.

Mr. SOUDER. But you have not—one of the things in saying that there has been a drop in crime, has there been a—given that there are bumps, have you seen homicides dropped, dealing dropped, in a general trend line?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir, that has dropped. As Mr. Seib mentioned about Plano, is that in Mesquite we have not had the heroin problem that some of the other cities have experienced. But that does not mean it is not there. We have indications that it is there, but the overdose and the deaths have not plagued us, yet.

Mr. SOUDER. In this period, since you have started these programs, have you had any change in demographics or has the population mix stayed roughly the same, income mix roughly the same?

Mr. WESTPHAL. It is almost exactly the same. Mesquite has no predominantly black or Hispanic or white areas. It is a well-described mixture of people.

Mr. SOUDER. In the specifics of the Slama-Bama-Jama, you said that after review in 1992, you added a casket, and you used the words, involving students' suggestions. Did the idea for the casket come from the students themselves?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, one of the things we felt like we should do early, we did not. In the very beginning we just did what we thought was right. And then not too long, probably around 1991, we got kiddos involved. And one of the things that they said that they wanted, after you got past the beer in the locker rooms and shorter school days, that kind of thing, they wanted to feel safe. They wanted to feel safe. They wanted to feel safe at home, they wanted to feel safe at school and they wanted to be comfortable around police officers.

So one of the things that the kids said is, we need to do something to get the other kids' attention. And so we have a friend at Anderson-Clayton Funeral Home, and after speaking with him, he offered to give us a casket. So we have a funeral march, and then we have kid, a high school student that is always a role model student, that pops out of this casket, portraying himself as a ghost in front of all the other kids. And it is pretty dramatic. And it has had a lot of impact.

Like I said, in terms of the school district, we only deal with about 150 or 160 kids on average, on a yearly basis, and so we really feel good about that.

Mr. SOUDER. In 1995, you added a jail?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOUDER. A similar process?

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir. Our officers put a jail together with PVC pipe, painted it black, and entered it into the program as actually showing the students—we have student participants and the officers, showing them locked up in a jail. And then the officers and the students give a testimony as to, I would not be here if it was not for drugs and gangs. And that is just an added version.

Mr. SOUDER. In your student groups, have you seen any different reactions from kids from middle, upper-class families versus your other groups at risk? In other words, those kids get involved in drugs in substantially different ways.

Mr. WESTPHAL. Not really. You know, a comment about, I think Congressman Sessions mentioned about the parental involvement. It is usually either/or. Either they are very, very supportive, or they are very much in denial, or they do not want to be involved at all. And usually you find that those parents are involved in drugs themselves.

And so the balance there with the kids, it does not really have a whole lot to do with the economic lines, as far as participation or as far as receptive to the program. At least, that is my opinion.

Mr. SOUDER. We had a hearing in Phoenix where we actually had a young person say that the parent of a friend was laying out the lines of cocaine on the table when she and her friends came over to their house after school—talk about parental involvement, that is not what we need.

Mr. WESTPHAL. Yes, sir. Excuse me, but I could give you a very real example. This school you are sitting in now, at its inception, had a lot of problems. And it has become a model school. I cannot say enough good about this high school, because in recent years—well, in early years, back in the late 1980's, there was a shooting on the parking lot, a drive-by shooting. But this school has become a model school as a result of a lot of things. But the partnerships that are involved with the school district and ourselves with the city, and clergy, and also just civic groups.

Mr. SOUDER. One more question from Mr. Seib. You said that, in addition to Plano, that northeast Tarrant County was hit by the heroin, and had like 15 deaths as opposed to 12?

Mr. SEIB. Yes. Tarrant County had, I think it was 53 incidents of heroin overdose.

Mr. SOUDER. Twenty-five deaths?

Mr. SEIB. And I think it was 25—23 or 25 of them resulted in deaths.

We have a new program that goes on, it is really an anonymous program, we are working with the hospitals. We can identify the heroin overdoses. Now we have a data base that we are trying to get all of the community hospitals to get just—no name, just the information, tell us, so we can see how big of a problem we actually have.

Mr. SOUDER. Could you explain—I mean, you look at this whole Dallas metro area, and you have Fort Worth and Dallas and all the suburbs, you have got Plano over here, you have got northeast Tarrant over here. Why would you have 25 deaths here, and 14 here? What is the dynamic that does not spread this evenly? Is it

a particular dealer, because Plano and northeast Tarrant are very close to each other.

Mr. SEIB. They are close to each other, yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Was there a dealer or a gang?

Mr. SEIB. It was a gang, it was a group of dealers. At that time, it was Hispanic dealers. And it was all from middle to upper-class kids. They were 14, 15 years old.

Mr. SOUDER. So the variables, you would say first off there needed to be money?

Mr. SEIB. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. There are other areas of money around Dallas, too, where they had kids?

Mr. SEIB. Not to that level. That is what we are trying to find by working with the hospitals, to see exactly where we are before we have the deaths coming in, where we have—we do not know how many people are going to the emergency rooms and being treated for heroin overdoses.

Mr. SOUDER. Why would you—you have a statistic in here that says the marijuana increased into the local hospitals by 70 percent or whatever. Why would you not have that for heroin?

Mr. SEIB. Right. But they were not reporting heroin overdoses.

Mr. SOUDER. Why would you not report heroin overdoses?

Mr. SEIB. I do not know that. At this time, I do not, but I will get you an answer.

Mr. SOUDER. I learned in my home area they did not have a test for LSD and accidents that they were reporting was just kind of random accidents. It turned out some of these kids were on LSD. But that is an odd thing to not catch.

Mr. SEIB. I will get you an answer.

Mr. SOUDER. So dollars, distribution through a certain—it is interesting because I saw a similar thing down in Orlando, why epidemics like this will hit a certain area so hard, and not even be hardly visible elsewhere.

Mr. SEIB. We do not have an answer.

Mr. SOUDER. We have heroin deaths and other——

Mr. SEIB. No significant numbers that we are aware of.

Mr. SOUDER. What about the——

Mr. SEIB. And again, these are the ones that are coming—these are coming out to the forefront. We do not know that it is some deaths from another area where we have not identified them as heroin deaths yet.

Mr. SOUDER. So it could be there.

Mr. SEIB. They could be there, but we are not seeing the numbers, like in Plano. And again, it was the parents coming out in Plano and saying, we have this problem. We are asked sometimes down in downtown Dallas, why are we not doing the same thing in Dallas that we are doing in Plano? Because the citizens did not make us aware in Dallas the way they did in Plano.

Mr. SOUDER. Are the purity levels higher in this area than they are in other parts?

Mr. SEIB. Yes, they are. We are seeing heroin sometimes as high as 80 percent.

Mr. SOUDER. Is that varying by parts of your jurisdiction?

Mr. SEIB. Yes, it is. But in the area, we have seen heroin as high as 80, and I remember working heroin in El Paso in the early 1980's to mid-1980's, we were having usable heroin was 2 or 3 percent. So kids are buying, they do not know what they are getting, and they are getting 80 percent.

Mr. SOUDER. And obviously that is because they water it down for price reasons?

Mr. SEIB. Right.

Mr. SOUDER. So in effect, higher income areas are more vulnerable to more potent things because their kids have the money to buy the more potent heroin?

Mr. SEIB. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Interesting.

Mr. SEIB. We had the same problem with the Dallas Cowboy that died last year around Plano. Same type of thing, the heroin overdoses. They do not know the percentage or the purity of the heroin that they are buying.

Mr. SOUDER. That would be a warning to many middle and upper-class families, where they have the two-parent families, where they think they are immune. And yet actually, their kids may be at more life/death risk, not necessarily success risk and other health risks, but because it is high-income areas that we are seeing the worst death rates.

Mr. SEIB. Right. And one of the breaks——

Mr. SOUDER. Not the shooting related with it, but the actual overdose.

Mr. SEIB. One of the breaks in the Plano investigation, I think one of the guys that was distributing the heroin made a statement to someone and said, look what my heroin is doing in Plano, it is so good.

Mr. SOUDER. Let me ask you one other thing, the gangs that you saw that brought that into Plano and northeast Tarrant, were they living in that area or were they gangs that came in from the outside?

Mr. SEIB. Some were living in the area but they came more from the Dallas area into Plano.

Mr. SOUDER. The interesting thing is that often suburban money has—which I have heard in a lot of inner-city areas, is then corrupting the inner-city, and the violence related to the conflicts between the gangs spreads to the poor areas because they want to sell to the more affluent. And because the gang violence often is not in the suburban area, they do not feel responsible for it. But it is their usage that is causing the gang violence, in many cases, in the urban centers, because they are fighting over their market. They come down and they shop down in those areas, so the people who live there get the street fighting. The people in the suburbs want to act like nothing is happening there because their kids are going and getting it in another place. Thanks.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Souder.

One of the things that I am starting to pick up as we go across the country is that we have had problems with cocaine and crack, heroin and other substances that have come in, marijuana, from abroad. And we are now, I think, on the verge of a national meth and designer drug epidemic, which has taken on a new dimension.

One of you testified that you jumped from 60 meth labs to 300, was it, in this area?

Mr. SEIB. We are expecting well over 1,000 labs in Oklahoma this year.

Mr. MICA. Over 1,000 in Oklahoma?

Mr. SEIB. Over 1,000 labs.

Mr. MICA. My God.

Mr. SEIB. In Oklahoma. Now that is State and local labs.

Mr. MICA. Right.

Mr. SEIB. That is DEA-participated labs.

Mr. MICA. So I think we are on the verge, and seeing the statistics, in California it was just astronomical. We had testimony of parents abandoning their children by the hundreds for this stuff, and also messing their brains up so badly that, in one case where they tried to get them back, only a handful would even take their kids back or were capable of taking their kids back after their minds are basically destroyed by this stuff.

From our national perspective, you know, we can fight the war on drugs, things coming into the border, stopping them before they get to the border. Now we have got a new domestic threat. Maybe in closing, any ideas for us to take back as to how to deal with this, Mr. Pappas?

Mr. PAPPAS. I would like to see more drug testing done in the schools.

Mr. MICA. The program that we just heard in New Orleans is very effective. I mean, this was done first in a private school and they are going now to public school. The courts have ruled, I guess, that in athletic and extra-curricular activities, it is legal. I do not know if it has really been pressed, the constitutionality of it beyond that. But in the New Orleans Parish that we held a hearing last week, incredible results, and the kids seem to like it. Of course, the parents and school like it and it almost dropped to no incidence of drug abuse, and it gave everybody cover, particularly for the young people, who are so victimized by peer pressure, you know, try it, do not be out of step. That it almost eliminated that.

So you think that drug testing has potential?

Mr. PAPPAS. It would be a good deterrent, I would think.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Seib, anything else?

Mr. SEIB. I think we need more public awareness of what is going on. You mentioned earlier about the ONDCP ads, something of $1.2 billion or something. I do not disagree with the program, but like the Assistant Chief here, I can only recall seeing one TV commercial and I do not remember seeing any billboards in the Dallas metroplex. I drive every day for 25, 30 minutes to work. I do not recall seeing the billboards.

Mr. SESSIONS. Let me add in here, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. This gentleman drives around Dallas a lot. We see the money that this administration has put in for the new dollar coins, but we do not see an emphasis on the reduction of drugs.

Mr. MICA. Right, I just saw a full-page ad not long ago.

Mr. SESSIONS. It is incredible to see how this administration has a blind eye. The last DEA administrator was not even in the room when his objectives and budget were laid out by the Clinton admin-

istration. The failure, I believe, of Janet Reno and the President in this endeavor can be seen even today on our streets. There is not even anything on our billboards, except of a new dollar coin would be coming out. This tells you about the administration we have in Washington, DC that does not understand what the message is about.

I apologize for interrupting, but that is a personal observation.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Westphal.

Mr. WESTPHAL. Well, obviously in our country, the family unit is busting at the seams and going all to pieces. And I think that, based on our experience here, just how minute it may be in comparison to the rest of the country, I feel like that probably for the long haul, we need to start getting with kids that are a lot younger than just the fifth grade. We probably need to start early on, educate them. It is not uncommon at the fifth grade level for our LETS officers to be approached by a student that they have taught, in fact, in an open classroom and says, well, my mommy smokes marijuana, or my father uses cocaine, what can I do? And of course, that puts the officer and the teacher and everyone in a precarious position. And the answer there is not to just go kick their door in and arrest them, but we have been faced with that.

So obviously, for the long haul, I think that we need to get with the kids that are a lot younger than just the fifth grade and start earlier.

Mr. MICA. Well, I would like to thank each of our witnesses in this panel for their testimony and for their insight and suggestions. We appreciate your participation this morning, and we have no further questions at this time. So I will excuse this panel. Thank you.

I will call the second panel this morning. The second panel this morning consists of four witnesses. They are Karen Ramos who is the principal at Bryan Adams High School; George Williams, trustee for District IV, the Dallas Board of Education; Mr. Justin Bowen, and he is a student; Dr. John D. Horn, superintendent of the Mesquite Independent School District. Those are our four witnesses.

And again, let me inform our witnesses this is an investigations and oversight subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. We do swear in all of our witnesses, which I will do in just a moment.

If you have lengthy statements or information, background which you would like to be made part of the record, upon request through the Chair, that will be granted.

With those comments, I would like to swear you in. If you would please stand and raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MICA. Thank you. The record will reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative. And I am pleased to recognize at this time Karen Ramos, who is the principal at Bryan Adams High School. Welcome, ma'am, and you are recognized.

STATEMENTS OF KAREN RAMOS, PRINCIPAL, BRYAN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL; GEORGE WILLIAMS, TRUSTEE, DISTRICT IV, DALLAS BOARD OF EDUCATION; JUSTIN BOWEN, STUDENT; AND DR. JOHN D. HORN, SUPERINTENDENT, MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. RAMOS. Thank you. My name is Karen Ramos, and I am the Principal at Bryan Adams High School. I have been in education for 22 years as a teacher and an administrator. I certainly appreciate this opportunity to speak with you about drugs in schools.

Whenever I speak with parents or students, I remind them that school is a picture of our society. Drugs are in all parts of society, therefore, they are in schools. No school is immune to drugs. Perhaps the drug of choice is different, depending on the income of the neighborhood, but drugs are everywhere.

There is research to show that teenagers that smoke are more susceptible to drug use later on. As principal of a high school, I am shocked to see the number of students that smoke on the way to school in their cars, at the mall and in the community. The word about the dangers of tobacco has not reached the masses of teenagers in a believable way.

Now to make this personal, let me tell you a little bit about Bryan Adams High School. It is a school of 2,200, 65 percent of our students receive free and reduced lunch. Many come from a single-parent family. We have a Dallas police officer on campus, a uniformed security personnel and a resource specialist. We have 138 teachers. In our high school, we have had drug offenses that have included tobacco use, alcohol and marijuana. We have also found drug paraphernalia that has been found on the outskirts, hidden under bushes and things like that around our campus. Students caught with these items face punishments that include sometimes a police-issued ticket, perhaps arrest, off-campus alternative placement and parent conferences. But certainly more needs to be done.

We have had a program in our district called DFYIT. DFYIT is financed through title moneys. Students signed a drug-free promise and took a random drug test. As a result, students received discounts from the community for fast food, senior ring discounts, yearbooks, etc. Sadly, our district has had to cut this down due to lack of personnel. But positive programs like this one, and LETS for elementary students certainly need to be continued. Students really do want the truth about drugs and alcohol presented in non-condescending way.

What other behaviors can be linked to drug and alcohol abuse? Certainly skipping school, truancy, failing grades are attached to this lifestyle. Violent behaviors can also be linked to these students, and passive, almost non-functional students that do not participate in the world around them is contributing to this lifestyle. My recommendations to this panel would include continued funding of drug education at all levels, K through 12. Decrease the size of schools. Schools should not be large institutions. Incentives for students to participate in random drug testing, perhaps tied to the driver's license or reduced car insurance fees. Make a required length of stay for students remanded to alternative schools, longer than 6 weeks. Six weeks does not even begin to scratch the surface for an addict. Stiff punishments for people trafficking marijuana,

drugs, and participating in gang violence. Incentives for companies to interact with schools through tutoring and mentoring. It is important to save our resources.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak with you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Ramos follows:]

Hello. My name is Karen Ramos and I am the principal at Bryan Adams High School in Dallas ISD. I have been in education for 22 years as a teacher and an administrator. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you about drugs in our schools.

Wherever I speak with parents or students, I remind them that school is a picture of society. Drugs are in all parts of society; therefore, they are in our schools. No school is immune to drugs, perhaps the drug of choice is different depending on the income of the neighborhood, but drugs are everywhere.

There is research to show that teenagers that smoke are more susceptible to drug use later on. As principal of a high school, I am shocked to see the number of students that smoke on the way to school, in their cars, at the mall and in the community. The word about the dangers of tobacco has not reached the masses of teenagers in a believable way.

In our high school, we have had drug offenses that have included tobacco use, alcohol and marijuana. Drug paraphernalia has been found on the outskirts of campus. Students caught with these items face punishments that include a police issued ticket, off campus alternative placement and parent conferences. But more needs to be done.

We had a program in our district called DFYIT. (Defy- it is financed through Title moneys) Students signed a drug free promise and took a random drug test. As a result students received discounts from the community for fast food, senior ring discounts, etc. Sadly, our district had to do away with this due to lack of personnel. Positive programs like this one and LET'S for elementary students need to be continued. Students want the truth about drugs and alcohol presented in a non-condescending way.

What other behaviors can be linked to drug and alcohol use? Skipping school, truancy and failing grades are attached to this lifestyle. Violent behaviors can also be linked to these students. And, passive, almost non-functional students that do not participate in the world around them can also be attributed to this lifestyle.

My recommendations to this panel would include:

· Continued funding of drug education at all levels K-12
· Incentives for students to participate in random drug testing perhaps tied to drivers' license or reduced car insurance fees
· A required length of stay for students remanded to alternative schools for drug use. Six weeks does not even begin to scratch the surface for addicts
· Stiff punishments for people trafficking marijuana or other drugs
Incentives to school districts to use drug dogs, etc.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak with you. Your recommendations will definitely impact the lives of our nation's most valuable resource.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony this morning. And we will now hear from George Williams, who is a Trustee with District IV of Dallas's Board of Education. You are recognized, sir.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I appreciate you inviting a representative from the Dallas School Board to speak to you this morning.

The Dallas School District has a zero drug policy. I serve on the community relations board for the Federal prison in Seagoville, and in that Federal prison, 70 percent of our inmates are drug-related inmates. So when you look at our society and when you look at a Federal prison in our community, and seeing how prevalent drugs are, one of the solutions that I feel is teaching our young people about drugs.

The Dallas Independent School District receives about $1.7 million in Title IV money for drug preventative programs. In some documents that I have given you—and I have given some new ones to you—that show the programs that we have implemented this year, with some new administration. We have really tried to accelerate aggressively our drug preventative programs. Our drug preventative programs and educational programs incorporate all students from the preschool level to the 12th grade.

Our comprehensive programs and educational strategies are based on four principles of proven effectiveness. First we have a needs assessment. Second, measurable goals and objectives. Third, research-based programs and fourth, evaluation.

When you get our documents—and I am not sure if you got the latest one that I am giving you, of the different programs that we have, but one of the things that you will find in the 1999 and 2000 year, you will see, on an elementary, middle school and high school level, the alcoholic beverage that students have been involved with, you will see that marijuana and other controlled substances are the highest level of problems that we have. You will see the glue and aerosol paint and cigarettes. We have got three recommendations that we would like to make to you, and you have that in our written testimony.

One of the documents I have given you is our Title IV budget category in 1999 and 2000 to show that we have 15 salaried personnel, as well as consultants, that are involved in teaching our kids about drugs. You will see our 2000–2001 proposed budget. And you will see that, on instructional supplies, we spent about 800,000 in the year 1999 and 2000. We are going to ask to increase that by a half million dollars in the 2000–2001 budget.

There is a couple of pages there that you will be able to go through and see where we have implemented our taxpayer dollars into those programs. We not only utilize our Federal Title IV, but we have State as well as local community involvement in our drug programs. I chair the audit committee, and one of the things that we do is we monitor the programs. And so I have given you some statistical data for you to be able to take back and analyze where the tax dollars are being spent.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Williams follows:]

Testimony of George Williams before the
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
June 5, 2000

Dallas Public Schools

Dallas Public Schools recognizes its obligation to partner together with parents in preparing our young people to make safe and healthy choices in the area of human growth, development and wellness. Dallas Public Schools governs the use of funds for the Title IV, **Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program**, with the purpose to implement comprehensive programs to build developmental assets of students and develop educational strategies for all students and employees; and to prevent drug use and violence.

Drug prevention and education programs incorporate all students, from the preschool level through Grade 12. These programs address the legal, social, personal, and health consequences of the use of illegal drugs, promote a sense of individual responsibility, and provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illegal drugs. Programs of drug prevention, comprehensive health education, early intervention, or rehabilitation referral may include:

1. the dissemination of information about drug prevention
2. the professional development of school personnel, parents, students, law enforcement officials, and community leaders
3. the implementation of strategies to combat illegal alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

The comprehensive programs and educational strategies are based on four Principals of Effectiveness:

Principle 1: Needs Assessment
Principle 2: Measurable Goals and Objectives
Principle 3: Effective Research-Based Programs
Principle 4: Evaluation

Dallas Public Schools incorporates preventive science techniques into their drug prevention and education programs.

1. **Personal** management technique to incorporate the Boys Town Model and positive discipline for teachers.
2. **Violence prevention** is used as a youth development technique to incorporate character education, service learning/community service, and youth leadership.

3. **Family involvement** incorporates parents programs such as Family Youth Interaction (FYI), Common Sense Parenting, and Parents Who Care.
4. **Community interaction** incorporates the professional development that includes developing assets and teaching strategies.
5. **Social skills development** incorporates the violence prevention technique that includes peer mediation, peace builders, conflict resolution, and no bullying.
6. **Academic achievement** incorporates drug prevention with programs such as, Life Skills Training, D.A.V.E, and Growing Healthy.
7. **Drug prevention** that includes Drug-free Youth in Texas, the Redirections Program and alcohol and related Services.

Dallas Public Schools upholds a Zero Tolerance Policy. Drug prevention and education programs are important to the students and the community. The government and other local organizations, such as the Rotary Club fund drug preventive programs. For the first time Dallas Public Schools has received funding for the Middle Schools. Research has shown that reaching students during these critical years can be a preventive measure against drug abuse and violence. At the present time, 80-90% of our students is involved with our staff and specialists in the implementation of our drug preventive programs. Dallas Public Schools has a community involved group assigned to review the implementation of our programs. This is an Advisory Committee that consists of law enforcement officers, businesses, parents and students. This committee meets on a periodic basis to address issues that involve the students and community of Dallas Public Schools.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony. And we will now hear from Mr. Justin Bowen. And I think he is a recent graduate of Seagoville High School. You are recognized, sir. Welcome.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MICA. Yes, Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Just for one moment.

This young man who is before us, and he may end up saying this to us, I believe, was the president of the student body presidents of all of the DISD, meaning he was the president of the presidents organization that represented all of DISD schools. He is a young man who further has been my nominee to the U.S. Military Academy and will be attending West Point this summer for a full scholarship representative of the 5th District of Texas. And I want you to know that he is one of the most outstanding young leaders that we have in Dallas.

And so I would like for this committee to recognize that this young man is not only an outstanding student, a leader in his ROTC, a leader in his church, but also a leader among his peers. And so he comes as a great representative of our best students.

Mr. MICA. Thank you.

Mr. SESSIONS. I apologize for the interruption.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for that introduction.

Mr. SOUDER. He is clearly sending you to the Military Academy because now you have to serve in the military and cannot run against him. [Laughter.]

Mr. SESSIONS. I tell you what——

Mr. SOUDER. He is getting ready for your seat, Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. I tell you what, if we are not preparing the best to run for Congress or to be school board president, or to be a principal, then we are making a mistake. Mr. Bowen, I have the greatest of confidence in you, and if you decide at some point to get into politics, I will be your biggest supporter.

Mr. BOWEN. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. MICA. With those comments, Mr. Bowen, you are recognized.

Mr. BOWEN. I would like to thank the subcommittee for, first of all, allowing me to speak on behalf of the students, because many times the decisions are made and the voices of the students are not heard. And I think that is one of the most important things.

My first remark would be that it is time for America to come together on our problem and to stop placing the blame on generation me or Generation X, or whoever it may be, because right now, as we look at the problem, it is not a generation problem, it is America's problem. And I think that is the most important thing that can come out of here.

As I look out, usually I have many kids or many teenagers that come and ask me for advice, whether it is on drugs or anything like this, and the truth is that they do this because they are scared if they go to someone over here, that they might report it, or anything like that. And the truth is that they are really crying out for help. They are crying out silent cries.

And it is not only the users, but it is also the family members of the users. I cannot sit here and tell you, you know, how to solve it because I do not know. And I cannot tell you where it comes from, because I do not know, because my mom raised me and I

have a brother who was into drugs. I have not ever tried drugs. And so I do not know where it comes from or how it comes about, but I know that it has affected my family directly, for the fact that my cousin and my brother got heavily involved in drugs. And I never did. But I guess seeing the effects on them kind of reflected back to me.

And so just to point out that it does not only affect the users, but it also affects the family members of the users. And the plague, basically the drugs, they are killing our families. And when I look at it, I know that they are hurting our schools and I know they are hurting our communities. But when I see the approach to solving the problem, I think that the first step we need to do is to save our families. Because I think when we save our families, then we can save our schools. And when we save our schools, we can save our communities. And I think that is the approach that goes to it.

As one of the gentlemen before me who spoke, he mentioned, you know, that he would approve drug testing in schools. I think when people look on that, they think, well, students, if you tell them you want to do drug testing in their school, they are not going to approve of it. The truth is that many of them are out there and they support it. And they would support any effort it would take to make their home life, you know, more safe or whatever it may be. But I think that drug testing in schools would help us out a lot.

I know if I was still in high school—I am a recent graduate—that I would have approved of it. When the DFYIT program came into our school, actually my last approach to it was middle school, and even then we were excited about the program for the fact that, one, we were looking forward to Six Flags and discounts like that, but it gave us, you know, a way of initiating our drug testing and stuff like that. It motivated us actually to want to go take the test, and we actually wanted people to come in and drug test us so we could get discounts on stuff.

But I think the failure came—I do not know where it came with DFYIT, but after the eighth grade, I was drug tested one time, and never again. Maybe it was budget or anything like that. But I think that if we continue organizations like that, then eventually we will save our families and save our students. We cannot only, I guess, send money to the schools because we cannot expect our teachers, as we do so often, to shoulder the burden. It is not only a teacher problem.

And I know in the DISD, one of the things we have in high schools—or we had, I think we are getting rid of that, or they are, is that they had a Youth Action Center Officer. Now what that officer was able to do was—and maybe Ms. Ramos could tell you also—is if a student had a problem, that officer was normally an educator, used to be an educator. We could go to that guy and we could say, look, here is the problem. Do not tell me about it, you know, that I told you so-and-so is doing this, but will you check into it, or will you look into it? As opposed to going to a police officer who, if you say, look, my friend has drugs in his locker, you know, I mean and fear of arrest or anything like that.

Many high school students, they fear the police officers in their own building. Not that they will get shot or anything like that, but that, you know, somebody will get arrested or something like that.

And that is why they do not turn anyone in, that is why they do not report it. And I think that by getting rid of the Youth Action Center Officers, we are making a big mistake because we are taking educators out of our schools, and that is the educator I would have trusted to go to with my problem, and say, hey, look, here is what is happening, will you check into it.

So I think we should look into more of that in our schools, not only putting more officers with guns strapped to their side in our schools, but, you know, also educators, who are former educators, that can take these problems into consideration and know exactly how to deal with students. I think we ought to seriously look into that.

And just in closing, I feel that if we do not unite as a country then our families will die out, and then our kids will continue to fall into depressions, and teens will continue to take their own lives and the America we all once knew and loved, it will eventually fall. And drugs in our communities ruin the homes of America but drugs in our schools ruin the future of America. We must clean up our country, one family at a time, one school at a time, and eventually one community at a time. Only in this manner will America cleanse itself of such a plague.

Thank you once again for allowing me to speak before you.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony. And I will now recognize Dr. John Horn, superintendent of the Mesquite Independent School District. Dr. Horn, you are recognized.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bowen follows:]

Justin Boyd Bowen

1406 Del Carlo
Seagoville, TX 75159

Email JBOWEN03@aol.com

May 31, 2000

As a student that has just recently graduated from the Dallas Independent School District it occurs to me that the more the United States tries and the more our country attempts to prevent drug use within our schools and communities the deeper underground the problem travels.

The blame for America's drug problem can not be blamed on one generation of people. The only thing that matters is that it is **America's** drug problem. As a teenager I am sicken tired of hearing about only the rich kids or only those kids living in the ghetto or projects encounter drugs. Before just a few days ago never in my life had anyone offered me drugs. When a "friend" asked me if I wanted to smoke some marijuana with him and a few other guys I was insulted.

Drugs first hand only hurt a few lives compared to those that are hurt second hand. The users of drugs often get what they are looking (a temporary high in life). The brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, families and friends of drug users are really the ones hurt. These are the people that have to put up with both the physical and verbal abuse caused by the drug user. We can't continue to allow this disease we call drug abuse to plague our families. When our families are plagued in return so are our schools and communities.

Drugs in our communities ruin the homes of America. Drugs in our schools ruin the future of America. America's current approach to drug prevention via drug awareness in the classroom is not getting the job done. We can not put this problem on the shoulders of our teachers. As a nation we must come together and implement more family oriented drug prevention programs. In our schools Youth Action Center Officers and teachers attempt to do their best to make students aware of the effects of drugs however if this message never reaches the whole family unit it then becomes irrelevant.

America's drug problem will not be solved in the classroom. This plague must be weeded out in the order of our families, schools, and communities. We can not rid our nation of this problem on a person by person basis. We must clean up our country one family at a time, one school at a time and in turn on community at a time. Only in this manner will America cleanse itself of such a plague.

Dr. HORN. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and committee members. I am privileged to follow such an outstanding young man here. It is inspiring to hear someone speak as you have just spoken.

Having heard the prior panel, where you had assistant police chief of the city of Mesquite, Gary Westphal, essentially describe most of the programs that we have in place, I am not going to go over those again, and save your time. It is in the written testimony that we have provided.

There is one addition to that, and that is a middle school program we have called a youth conference where we have students in the middle schools to select their leaders. And these leaders come to a full day of training and program activities. And the theory is that they go back then and work with the rest of the student body. And we provide training for them in decisionmaking and handling peer pressure, etc. That program has also worked very well.

The other observation is that the partnerships that we have cultivated and maintained for many years have also been brought into play on the gang and drug use among young people. And that would include our city, our school district, our Chamber of Commerce, our churches and other organizations.

In fact, there is a group, and I am not sure if Mr. Westphal defined this, but it is called the Youth Services Committee, which was begun some years ago. That is where they solicit the information from students about what they saw as needed to find a path out of some of the usage that was going on. And we have had reasonably good success, in terms of the gang activity. Drug usage is difficult to ascertain, I think, but nonetheless, the partnerships, we believe, are essential to any community to address the problem. That was one thing I would say.

Another is that we keep looking for a silver bullet, or vaccination like those to get rid of smallpox or polio. It is not out there. It is like we can educate the child, therefore they know. Knowledge, as we know, children or adults, does not necessarily translate into changed behavior, and there is no such thing as a one-shot effort education. So what the implication of that is, is that it must be continuous, it must be embedded and it must be supported. We are really talking about decisionmaking. And we need to enable young people to have good decisionmaking skills.

There are a lot of things that are occurring that—I know the word enabler is sort of a hot-button word sometimes, but we have heard testimony this morning, and I concur, that there are a lot of things that society and perhaps parents are doing that enable their offspring to engage in the use of drugs. And maybe the schools are doing some of that as well. But I think that it is important that we have a continuous program of education, continuous program of partnerships, and a continuous program of intervention kinds of things that work. And finally, a continuous program of support. Young people must have support, all along the way. And I think that would be the greatest thing that we can do to address the problem we have.

Thank you.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. And I thank each of the witnesses for their testimony.

First, Principal Ramos, you have seen what we are doing at the Federal level, as far as attempting to assist in developing prevention and education programs. Given what you have seen, since we cannot do everything, what would be your priorities that you would recommend that we take back to Congress for us to concentrate on?

Ms. RAMOS. I am currently in the process right now of writing a proposal for the smaller learning grants that are sponsored through the Federal Government. I think that the large schools lend themselves to a person being not known.

Mr. MICA. Your school is 2,000?

Ms. RAMOS. Almost 2,200, yes.

Mr. MICA. That is a large school.

Ms. RAMOS. It is too big, correct.

Mr. MICA. And we seem to be building them bigger and bigger. So that is one thing that you would encourage?

Ms. RAMOS. That would be the first one. And then the second thing, I heard your comment about the commercials, $1 million being spent.

Mr. MICA. $1 billion.

Ms. RAMOS. $1 billion? I am sorry.

Though I found those interesting and funny or provocative, those alone are not the kind of education that changes anybody's behavior, I do not think. I think that quality education that is not condescending to kids, that is truthful and informative, is good for young people no matter if they are in the kindergarten or in the 12th grade. But so often it is so heavily laden with a preach component that kids turn off. So I think education is important, and the program that I like that I have had the most success with is the DFYIT program. But because kids voluntarily become part of it. They get random tests, and also they get something immediately for it.

Mr. MICA. So part of the DFYIT program is random drug testing?

Ms. RAMOS. Yes.

Mr. MICA. Would you be supportive of mandatory drug testing, or at least random drug testing in public schools?

Ms. RAMOS. Yes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Williams.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Same question?

Mr. MICA. Yes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, I would.

Mr. MICA. And Dr. Horn.

Dr. HORN. We have some voluntary programs now for drug testing for students involved in athletic programs in the schools.

Mr. MICA. Right. And I think the courts have upheld those for extracurricular and sports activities. Do you see a problem?

Dr. HORN. At the conceptual level, I would agree that some random testing could be beneficial. But I think you have got to have community support for that.

Mr. MICA. Well, what about an opt-out program for parents who do not want their kids tested?

Dr. HORN. That would be a way to satisfy probably some of the legal hurdles you have to get over.

Mr. MICA. I think that is what they are going to do in New Orleans, now that they are shifting from the private to public, is allowing an opt-out.

Mr. Bowen, you testified you thought that the testing offers a positive incentive?

Mr. BOWEN. I think so. I think in the past, kids maybe were like, you know, well, it is not that big of a deal, you know, I do not want to do the testing, you know, if I do not have to. But I think kids nowadays, as you have in D.C., they see that drugs are killing their friends, and they see that drugs are ruining their families, and I think that is why they are willing, you know, more than in the past, more willing to take the initiative. Whether they have to sacrifice, you know, whatever it may be, but take the initiative to get tested. So I think they are willing to.

Mr. MICA. Well, I think in your testimony, did you say you were raised by your mom?

Mr. BOWEN. Correct, yes.

Mr. MICA. OK. Sometimes people say that the drug problem is just a problem of dysfunctional or single-parent families. But we found that—and I alluded to some of that in my comments, it is striking church-going, Bible-thumping, normal nuclear families. This is an epidemic that is affecting everybody. The last thing we can do in Congress is dictate every type of government program from Washington that is going to be successful. I think that some of the things we have done to try to strengthen the family, Welfare-to-Work and some of the other incentives that we have tried to do revising some of the mandated programs, have helped. But we still have the problem of trying to get Federal dollars to programs that are most effective.

Did you say that $1.7 million comes into your district, Mr. Williams?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, it does.

Mr. MICA. I did not see in your testimony. You were going to provide us with how that money is spent?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes. And I think I had 50 handouts.

Mr. MICA. Can you just tell us, do you know how that breakdown is? Maybe you should change some of that. Is it for DARE or drug education programs?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Let me see if I can hand that to you, a couple of those copies. There is quite a few, on the salaries we have, 15 positions at $700,000, and it gives you a list of the different descriptions that we have.

Mr. MICA. Oh, I see. This addendum is not in our packet.

Mr. WILLIAMS. No, I had them actually working on it yesterday, to be more complete, thorough. The information that we sent you, I did not have this, and since I chair the audit committee. I am specific on being able to have documentation as far as specific dollar amounts and data. And so it does give you some of the consultants and different Drug-Free Youth in Texas, independent evaluation, FYI and the different expenditures there. Instructional supplies, as I said, was a little over $800,000. We would like to increase that by half a million.

You will see that the dollars, right off the bat, will tally more than $1.7 million. Believe it or not, we actually had some addi-

tional funds that were not used last year, and we are being aggressive with our new administration of using every dollar that we have.

Mr. MICA. Have you considered like an experimental drug testing program, maybe with one of your problem schools?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, we actually have a number of schools that have volunteer testing, in which we have another list that we certainly can provide to you. Students who have volunteered to take the test, and one particular high school, we had 122 students take it. 120 of them came up clean, 2 of them are on the statistical data here with drug problems. But we had, I think, about 27 schools who have voluntarily taken the drug testing students that have signed up.

Mr. MICA. How many students does this district serve?

Mr. WILLIAMS. We have approximately 163,000 students.

Mr. MICA. 163,000.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Approximately 9,000 teachers, approximately 18,000 total employees.

Mr. MICA. And what do you think about the recommendation of Ms. Ramos, about smaller schools?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, we certainly agree that, the smaller the school—I mean, our elementary schools, you would love to have an elementary school at 500 and 600. We have elementary schools at 800. I mean, we are overcrowded. But the smaller schools, certainly with smaller class sizes, would give us a better chance of educating our kids. I do not know if we better tell him how many kids we have in a class, but we certainly have too many in a class. We need to get the student ratio of our teachers down.

But I would like to comment on the advertising budget.

Mr. MICA. OK.

Mr. WILLIAMS. When I was in California, I saw newsclip ads about kids staying in school and about drug prevention. I thought it was very, very positive to go along with our educational programs, as a reminder. It is just like when you see an ad for a restaurant, you are going down the highway, you are not thinking about eating Fajitas or steaks, or anything, you see that little reminder that there is a restaurant. Let us go have seafood.

So I think this little advertising campaign, truly, if it is implemented with our media, such as Smokey the Bear, well, all of a sudden we started changing our fire, when we were kids. Same thing with some of the things in Dallas, we had deal, it is 10 p.m., do you know where your kids are? Well, when that plays on television every night at 10 p.m., you think, gosh, where is my teenage daughter or son?

I think with staying in school, with learning through continued education and drug prevention, I truly believe that if we would get all of our media to buy into that, even in the newspaper media, as you just commented about a full-page ad about the new coins, that if we had something, have you talked to your kids about drugs today? I was at one of our high schools. In some cases, we have single parents. In some cases, we do not have a parent at all. I sat in one of the classes, and the teacher said it used to be that kids did not have a dad at home. Well, in some cases they do not have a dad or mom because they are in jail because of drugs, was her

comment. So we have a grandparent or a friend, or either the kid has dropped out of school.

We have educational programs. It does not make any difference how much money you have. You can have the designer drug, if you are in Plano. But in Dallas Independent School District, we have 52 percent of Hispanic kids, 37 percent African-American; 90 percent are minority kids. They may not have the money that the kids have in Plano or in Mesquite, some of the suburban districts, but they certainly can get the other drugs that are low-dollar drugs.

Drugs has to be continued to have the funding to be able to train and teach our young kids. We have started off with a new program where we, I think, are getting $300,000 for our middle school program. We need to start at the pre-K and the first and second and third grade.

So whether we come up with a national character, as we did with Smokey the Bear, in drug prevention, whatever kind of character that we have, but our kids have to know what it does to families and what it does for our kids. Our mission statement is to graduate every child, every child to be a productive citizen, highly trained and skilled to be a productive citizen. They cannot be a productive citizen if they are tied to the drugs.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was going to ask a question and I am not sure that the numbers lead that way, but I will ask it anyway.

Mr. Bowen, how destructive or how pervasive are drugs to an average person that goes to Seagoville High School? Do they see them, football activities, after-school dances, can you see the kids that are on drugs, and do you know them and how prevalent is it? And alcohol.

Mr. BOWEN. I think, well, obviously alcohol is a major problem. And that is noticed from parties and everything of that nature.

I guess I was one of the lucky ones for the fact that I took such an approach to so many things that I was so involved in things that I was not offered drugs too often. They were kind of, I guess, leery of offering them to me, and I was just offered it for the first time last week. And in my written testimony, I think, which is out there, I said I was insulted by that because of the guy. But you know who the users are.

Mr. SESSIONS. Did you feel like you would want to turn him in to the police department?

Mr. BOWEN. Would I?

Well, that was Cancun, when he offered it to me. And so that is one of those things. But if he was to do it here, yeah, I would. I would not hesitate. And like I said, if I was in school and he offered it to me, I would not hesitate to go to that officer, that Youth Action Center Officer and say, hey, look, you know, because I am one of those people where I understand, you know, that sometimes you do wrong things. But you do not bring it, and you do not allow it to affect everyone else. You just do not do that. And so you know, I would have turned him in. I would have.

And in school, I mean, you know, that is what I am saying, many students go to a police officer, they know somebody has a chance of getting arrested, which that should happen if you are trying to

sell it at school. And if you are trying to do that stuff, that should happen, and you need help. And so that is why we need, you know, officers there that we feel comfortable around. Somebody stated earlier that when they see police officers they do not feel comfortable. That is all too often. It happens all too often, you do not feel comfortable around police officers. And I do not know why, either, you know, a lot of them are great guys.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, they are there to protect the law.

Mr. BOWEN. Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Mr. SESSIONS. Uphold the law.

Mr. BOWEN. I think at school, though, you know who the users are, you see them. You know who the guys are, pretty much, providing it. At Seagoville, I guess we are in a very different situation than Bryan Adams, though, because we are so much smaller. We have, I think close to probably 1,000, a little over 1,000 students at Seagoville. It seems as if the older you get, you assume your providers, your drug providers are kind of older. Our senior class is probably a whole lot smaller than Bryan Adams.

We might have the problem, but it is kind of on a reduced rate as opposed to Bryan Adams. And really, at Seagoville, you probably assume maybe two or three people there are providing, maybe, and using drugs, you know, further out at the parties. I do not hear about marijuana, I mean heroin and stuff of that nature. You hear more about marijuana at Seagoville, and stuff like that. But alcohol is a major problem there, it really is, because I mean, you come back on Monday, and you hear about the people that drank alcohol on Friday. So it is a major problem.

Mr. SESSIONS. Ms. Ramos, I had an opportunity to have your job for a day and I think I would love to next year let you have my job for a day, because I think I learned a lot by walking in your sandals. And of course, as you know, we are going to have one of your officers who will be on the next panel.

What do we do about drugs in schools? I know we discussed testing. What do we really need to do? Do we need to be more active? Do we need to come in and do something about it, or are you, as an educator, working with the police department trying to keep it in its proper perspective and attack only the problem?

Ms. RAMOS. Well, I was interested in the first panel when the man from DEA spoke. I have never had anyone approach me from that agency to talk, or to work with drug education on our campus. I am a real proponent of education and letting people know so they can make good choices. I think that sort of a partnership, that free flow of information needs to occur.

I also think that we do need to keep it in perspective because there are many students just like Mr. Bowen here that are making good choices, and are going to be the leaders of tomorrow. I think we do need a strong parent component because the drug of choice at Bryan Adams is alcohol followed by marijuana. And all too often, our parents do not understand the implications of being involved in alcohol and what it does later on, perhaps to get you involved in other things.

And I am concerned about the lack of parenting and the way that parents—I am a parent also, and I work also—have sometimes an attitude, you have him for 8 hours, you know, you deal with them

and I will get him back when he comes back to my house. I do not know how you bridge that, I do not know how you make parents your allies, because as the gentleman before me spoke, in the earlier panel, you have very positive people that want intervention, parents, when you tell them there is a problem, and then you have the parents that, "not my kid," in denial sort of thing.

So I think education and then a penalty. I think that kids want to feel safe, teachers want to feel safe, all of us want to feel safe. And so if a problem is uncovered, there should be something that we can do about it. Whether that is getting someone in treatment or getting parents and family into counseling, but there should be something that those of us not involved can look at and say, oh, there was a problem and they are attempting to find a solution. Because all too often, the solutions that we have are so quick, you know, go here for 6 weeks and you will come back and you will not have that drug problem anymore. And we know that that does not happen. That takes sometimes years to get out of the cycle of alcohol or drug abuse.

So I think whatever remedy there is, it needs to be long-term. And I think, as Mr. Williams spoke, it needs to begin early, very early in a kid's life, because kids see this on TV, they see it in the movies, they hear sports people talk about what they have done, and we need to begin to explain it, even though it might not be in our house, because they are being bombarded with it, even as we might be just letting them watch the Disney Channel. But they are hearing, they are seeing it, and they need to have as much information to make good decisions.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would just like to make a comment, and I am not going to ask a question. But I want you to know, Dr. Horn, that of all the people that I have ever known in education, including this panel that is with you and some that may follow, there is not one person who I have greater respect for, and who I believe is a fine administrator and a person who has the finest capability of any person I have ever met in education. And I want to thank you for being here today, and believe that your wisdom and judgment is important to MISD, and at any time that this subcommittee, the members who are here and also that we work with in Washington, we are very open to hearing from you, and any of you, about the ways in which we can do a better job.

With that, I yield my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Sessions. I now recognize Mr. Souder.

Mr. SOUDER. It is DFYIT, as opposed to defiance?

Ms. RAMOS. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. DFYIT. How many people participate in that roughly, do you have any idea?

Ms. RAMOS. Well, in our school, we had over——

Mr. MICA. I do not know if they can hear you, Mr. Souder.

Mr. SOUDER. Everybody from Texas could understand what you were saying on DFYIT. I was the Hoosier rural.

Mr. MICA. Does it not stand for something?

Ms. RAMOS. Yes. Drug Free Youth in Texas.

Mr. SOUDER. You started to tell me, in your school.

Ms. RAMOS. In our school, we had over 200 this year, however they became disillusioned because some of the things that they were promised did not come to fruition.

Mr. SOUDER. So 200 of the——

Ms. RAMOS. 200 of the 2,200 students were involved in it.

Mr. SOUDER. And the things did not come through because of the number of people?

Ms. RAMOS. No, no. Things did not come true because of some funding issues that I am not privy to.

Mr. SOUDER. Do you know, Mr. Williams, was this in Dallas?

Mr. WILLIAMS. It was in our district, but I honestly do not know anything about that particular program.

Mr. SOUDER. So that was not—any of the funding for that did not come through Drug Free Schools money?

Ms. RAMOS. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Did it come from drug-free?

Mr. MICA. We are not going to be able to do that.

Mr. SOUDER. Oh, OK. I am not going to do that. OK. I am sorry.

Mr. MICA. We will not ask that.

Mr. SOUDER. The reason I wondered, those two questions are the difficult questions. I was a staffer before I was a Member of Congress, and one of the things I worked with with Senator Coats was, in 1989, in fact, one of the two schools that started in Indiana on athletes on drug testing, and went through a circuit court and was upheld if you tested for voluntary activity, there was a school in Texas that was pioneering the next—and I cannot remember where because I am going to be 50 this summer and your brain cells start dying at 28 which means at 50 you are really in trouble—but in Texas they were drug testing all the students, and there was a question, was there probable cause, and the courts are still working through, district by district, of what you can do.

You can get around that with voluntary incentives, which is better than nothing, but not necessarily getting the most at-risk kids. But we attached a bill that allows any Drug Free Schools money can be used by a system for drug testing. The problem is, we are still working through, depending by district, where the courts are, where the parent support groups are. It has to be truly random, you have to have alternative tests. But it is clearly an accountability function.

In my district, we now have two high schools that are doing uniform random testing, and another high school where I met with the seniors, the superintendent of that district and the principal were in the room, they had slipped in in the back, and listened to the exchange we had. It was real interesting, the student body president, the senior class president, the student council vice president were all against it. And then some kids started speaking up for the drug testing.

After we were done, the principal and superintendent decided to implement drug testing, because the kids who spoke up for it were all kids who either had alcohol or marijuana problems or were suspected of those problems, and several of them that had been caught in athletic or in voluntary programs and said, our lives would not have turned around without the drug testing. The other activists and some of the kids who were making the arguments were, oh,

there is a rights question, it could embarrass people, it is a waste of time, what if I had a McDonald's sandwich and the sesame seed bun set me off? You know, this type of question, way back on old type of tests, as opposed to the current.

But the fact is the kids who actually had their lives changed knew that—in fact, some of them, a couple of them who had not been caught and who were just suspect said, it would be easier to tell the other kids that we could not participate in an activity and the peer pressure because we would just tell them, well, you know, I could get caught. And it is not a solution in the sense of getting to the core problems, but it is a way to check it and is allowable use of Drug Free Schools funds. It is, when combined in particular with incentives to make it a positive, even if it is just a reward system, it is clearly where we are headed in a lot of programs.

I am right now one of the arch villains in this country, with every, bluntly put, whiney college newspaper editor in the country because we put a new standard on student loans in this country that was not enforced aggressively this year, but next year it is going to be there, and schools are going to have an obligation. And in the higher-ed amendments we just passed, we are going to have an information package that has to get to every student. If you are busted when you are in college, you now lose your student loan for 1 year. I put in a clause that says, if you go to treatment or if you test clean twice, you can get it back before the year is up, because our goal is not to kick kids out of college, our goal is to get them clean. And that we are either serious about this stuff or we are not serious about it. And if you get busted twice, you are out for 2 years, third time you are out. If you are a dealer, it is once.

Now kids need to know, if they are headed in, that we had a big conflict whether high school previous convictions were going to deprive you of a student loan coming in. The Department of Education interpreted it that way, but that was not the way I intended it in the original amendment and we are clarifying that in the higher-ed. It is only once you receive, once you fill out that high school application, and once you say, we are getting a government subsidized loan. Now that summer period beforehand, you are going to be held accountable. That is another tool with which to educate kids. There is a risk and an accountability with this. Ultimately, we have to have more prevention.

But I really like the positive—I like the idea of tying it to car insurance. If our car insurance companies would do that, that is clearly another area to move.

I am curious, in the Dallas school system, you said you had 89 percent minority?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Approximately 90, yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Do you have, even if you are part of the city, you can have separate school districts? Is that part of the—how does that work?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, Dallas and the school district is made up of part of the Dallas County. Justin happens to live in Seagoville, it has its own police department, fire department, it is a separate city, but it is part of the Dallas Independent School District. So we make up a wide variety of different cities that make up the Dallas Independent School District.

But we have nine different districts and I represent District IV, approximately 100,000 registered voters, it makes up a certain segment of our community. In my district, I have approximately 27 schools, 3 high schools, 3 middle schools. But our district, in some areas, may not be as strong with minority students, where we may have some districts that are totally minority.

But to answer your question, we have 90 percent of minority students.

Mr. SOUDER. Dr. Horn, you may have an opinion on this, too, as well as Mr. Williams, that we are wrestling in the Education Committee. One of the first questions people say, you have too many people in administration and not enough in the classroom. That every time we go through and have one of these hearings, we hear, we need this resource specialist, we need this special program, we have this government reporting—any time you get funds, you have more reporting. That is tension No. 1.

And one of the fundamental questions that I wrestle with all the time, is the most effective anti-drug program an anti-drug program, or is the most effective anti-drug program pouring this money into getting kids' skill levels up in education and then holding them accountable through drug testing or other things? Because if we give them the skills—I know that is a question you face every day in every funding decision. But clearly, every time we devise another government program that diverts resources from the fundamental part of education to provide support, it is clear, if a kid is getting abused at home, if his parents are on drugs, are not helping him get there, or if he is on drugs or alcohol, trying to teach him English is pretty difficult.

But this is a tough chicken/egg question. I just appreciate your comments.

Dr. HORN. Well, a big part of what we are dealing with here is relationships. And that is why I am going to come back to saying that the family and individual, it is about decisionmaking and the strength of those relationships and support all along the way. There is no vaccination.

In terms of what we can do in schools, I think it is going to take a community-wide approach, and I guess one of the questions is, what is the role of the Federal Government in this. And I am not prepared to answer. But I do think that, the research is one area, and I think that incentive kinds of things is another. And we do not get that much money for the Drug Free Schools Act, it comes through our regional education service center. There are 20 of those in the State, and we do a cooperative with them. Probably less than $200,000.

So with respect to the bureaucracy that is necessary to administering the program, I think that will always be a problem. But I think if you listen to Mr. Bowen here, he is saying a lot of kids are crying out. And that is true. And there is not someone to go to. And if there is not the family, which we would like it to be, then there has got to be some other source. So typically the safest place for kids is at school, in terms of the emotional challenges they face, sometimes as well as physical safety.

So I am not sure what form the support should take, but in some ways, you think about the American family being in crisis, and

whether it can heal itself may be a big question. There may be some ways we can help American families to be more effective. And I do not think from an enforcement perspective, but just from support. If you have a family that is in crisis and one of their children is on drugs or in trouble with the law, where does that family turn to? If they happen not to be connected to a church, where do they go to? And you heard Mr. Bowen talk about the Youth Action Center at the school. So there may be some opportunities there to provide support for the family that is in crisis.

A final comment on the ratio of administrators and teachers, you just need to look at the research about that from the various sources that you have. And there has not been a proliferation of administrators, typically, in public schools in America. That is an absolute myth. You have support and facilitation people that are required to do the things that need to be done. Special education programs in particular are where you have the greatest amount of resources allocated from the Federal Government, and the greatest amount of resources per student allocated in the public schools.

What we know about teaching and learning is that you will not have a sustained high performance school without good administrative leadership. You cannot work around the principal to get high performance, you have to work through, and with. So there is a place for the school leadership at the district level and the school leadership at the campus level. And then the services to schools that are provided by the various other administrative personnel. So it is a matter of degree, it is not a matter of one against the other.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I will tell you that, with Dr. Horn, and a lot of our suburban school districts, the ratio for administration in the campus level is on target where it needs to be. Our new superintendent just reduced our administrative staff by 16 percent a couple of months ago, because in some of your urban large school districts, you will find that we have had too many administration personnel and not enough at the campus level.

But in saying that, I will address about our schools. We not only need to teach our kids about drugs, we have to teach our teachers. We have to have training so that our teachers understand to recognize—because I am going to tell you, I would not know what the smell of marijuana is, I would not know what the majority of these different drugs. I have gone through a police academy seminar in which they have had a drug expert come in, and I learned an awful lot. But I am going to tell you, unless our teachers understand what is out there, to be able to recognize it, and to be able to know that they need to help a child, then we have to have training at the administrative level, and have to have funding to be able to make that training happen.

We just authorized 95,000 this last week for some individuals to help us with gang-related teaching for our teachers. There is new signs, there is new gangs, there is new things out there that we do not know what to recognize So if we cannot stay up with what is going on in the drug world, as well as the gang world, our teachers have to be trained to recognize what is going on.

So we need to be able to make sure that there is funding available so that the different districts—and as you heard, we have different challenges for the suburban versus the urban school district,

different challenges that we all have to face. And so we need to be able to have diversity of how we can be able to utilize those, and not just one set rule that, hey, everybody is going to play by the same field. Here is the funds, you have to do this. There has to be diversity of those expenditures.

Mr. SOUDER. One thing I would just like to add on drug testing and that, in the business area, in the Small Business Committee, we passed—a lot of it came through my subcommittee that allows businesses to tap into a resource fund of how to set up drug testing. But one thing the law is pretty clear on, do not try to do something to your employees if you do not test yourself. And that it is something for school districts to consider as well, that if the board, the superintendent's office, the principals and the teachers were taking the tests, then the students would not feel it is just a finger-pointing. It starts with Congress.

Quite frankly, we have got a fair number of less than straightforward Members of Congress who want to test everybody else and do not test themselves. We have put testing in our office. We have been having a big internal battle as to whether we can pay for it with taxpayer funds. Anybody in my office right now who gets drug tested, I have to pay for out of my personal pocket. I cannot use campaign funds, I cannot use private donations and we cannot use office donations, because some Members of Congress do not want to allow us to drug test because they are worried about it. And that really upsets me. And that is why a lot of kids are cynical about our process. If we, as adults, provide the same criteria to ourselves that we ask of the kids, we may see a different attitude, too.

Mr. MICA. I would like to thank each of the witnesses in this panel for their testimony, also providing us with their experience and viewpoint and recommendations. We will try to utilize some of what we have learned from this and the previous panel, as we return to Congress very shortly.

There being no further questions for this panel, I will excuse you at this time.

I will call our third and final panel. The third panel today consists of three individuals: Dana Mitchell, who is the director of the Mesquite Youth Intervention Program; Matt Manning who is with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Dora Flowers who is a security officer in Bryan Adams High School. I would like to welcome all three of these witnesses.

And again, this is an investigations and oversights subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and we do swear in our witnesses, which I will do in a moment. If you have lengthy statements or additional information you would like to be part of the record, upon request to the Chair, that will be granted. If you want to just stay standing, please raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MICA. And this was answered in the affirmative. And pleased at this time to recognize first Dana Mitchell, who is the Director of the Mesquite Youth Intervention Program. Welcome, and you are recognized.

STATEMENTS OF DANA MITCHELL, DIRECTOR, MESQUITE YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAM; MATT MANNING, FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES; AND DORA FLOWERS, SECURITY OFFICER, BRYAN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. MITCHELL. Thank you for having me today.

Mr. MICA.We may need to pull the mic over, if you could do that. Thank you.

Ms. MITCHELL. Thank you. Mesquite Youth Services is a division of the city of Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department. The division was established in 1991 as a result of the Youth Services Steering Committee's efforts to address some of the troubling trends involving youth in the community.

The Youth Services Steering Committee, now known as Mesquite Youth Services, Inc., was responsible for designing a community-based response to the critical needs of youth. The committee determined early on that the best use of the energies and resources was to focus on prevention rather than rehabilitation of gangs.

Youth Services takes a multi-faceted approach to prevention. We operate from the stance that any youth can become at risk, given the right circumstances. I would like to share with you a brief description of some of the programs that we provide that are making a difference in the lives of children.

One such program is Youth Options. Youth Options is a violence prevention education program for fourth-grade students. This program has been very effective in teaching youth alternatives to violence when dealing with conflicts. The program explores violence in music, television and the media. One student wrote, "Helped my self esteem. Thoughts of running away but didn't. Thank you."

We also provide a gang prevention program for sixth grade students. We provide information on the definition of gangs, peer pressure and gang involvement, gang activity, where to go for help, and the end results, which we know are death or prison.

We have an after-school program provided at a centrally located community center here in Mesquite. The goal of the program is to provide support to all young people, age 11 to 14, in a way that promotes a healthy lifestyle, exposes youth to various cultural and recreational activities, and provides alternatives to gangs, drugs and violence.

Youth Services works with community agencies to provide support groups, volunteers and in-kind donations. We have been successful in our programming efforts but lack the funding to adequately provide supervision that can address the level of risky behaviors these youth are exposed to.

For example, there was a young man in the program that was very defiant, failing in school and had a lot of contact with the police because of complaints. This young man had minimal supervision or support from his mother. On one occasion, a relative called to say that his mother had been arrested. On another occasion, he informed staff that he might have to drop out of the program because they were moving. They faced eviction because his mother was suspected of selling drugs out of their home.

A program that has been successful is a youth conference during National Red Ribbon Week. It is our anti-drug youth conference for middle school students that is designed to help them make positive

life choices. As students comment, is confirmed that we have reached our goal. "I learned things that we need in life, not just in the next grade." We could not accomplish our goal without community support.

Mesquite Youth Services, Inc. is a great avenue for everyone to come to the table with ideas, expertise and resources.

With all the support mentioned above and the many programs we offer, there remains a need for services. There are many families that need direct intervention and direction to services that can address their needs.

I have shared with you the stories of success with our prevention programs, but there are many other stories of families in need of services. Families who have exhausted all their resources, families who do not know where to turn for help. Parents whose children suffer with mental illness and become so aggressive that they are afraid of them. Parents who cannot get their children to attend school and face a fine or the loss of their job if they do not get help soon, and single parents who are tired, frustrated and sometimes helpless in dealing with the day-to-day task of parenting. These are the stories that are unforgettable to me. The many people who need people to help them, to support them, to encourage them, when dealing with the trials they encounter in life.

Youth Services is working to address these problems but need additional funds. Although funds are available through the Federal Government, staff is somewhat hesitant to apply because usually they are field-initiated grants that have an 18 to 24-month funding cycle. It has been my experience that it takes up to 24 months to implement a new program, not to mention determining program effectiveness.

In conclusion, Youth Services has enjoyed much success in its prevention efforts. Mesquite has realized a reduction in gang activity and criminal activity overall in the last 10 years. Youth Services plans to continue current programming and continue to look at new and innovative ways to serve youth. Please join our efforts by supplying funds that are program friendly and allow growth and development.

Thank you for listening today and caring about communities and schools.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony, and we will now hear from Matt Manning, who is with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. You are recognized, sir.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Mitchell follows:]

Testimony of Dana Mitchell
Director, Mesquite Youth Intervention Program
before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
June 5, 2000

Program Summary

Mesquite Youth Services is a division of the City of Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department. The division was established in 1991 to address some of the troubling trends involving youth in the community. The City of Mesquite, Mesquite Independent School District and Community Civic groups joined together to form a partnership to combat urban society's increasing problems with youth gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, school drop out and parental detachment that had found their way to Mesquite. The Youth Services Steering Committee, now known as Mesquite Youth Services, Inc., was responsible for designing a community base response to these critical youth needs.

The Committee determined early on that the best use of its energy and resources was to focus on prevention, rather than rehabilitation of gangs.

A mission statement was written to communicate the Committee's purpose:

"To:
provide a unified effort to educate, coordinate, and actively involve every segment of the community in identifying and meeting the needs of all youth.

In a way that:
- Encourages success
- Develops life skills
- Emphasizes a sense of priority
- Stresses the worth of the individual
- Promotes community responsibility
- Provides necessary resources

So that:
All youth shall have opportunities to create and participate in a variety of positive experiences which will nurture self esteem, build and reinforce positive attitudes, and will be meaningful to both the individual and the community."

Program Overview

Youth Services takes a multifaceted approach to prevention. Research indicates that a multiple approach is more effective in working with at-risk youth than a single component approach or program, therefore a variety of programs are provided for youth in the community and schools. All aspects of prevention are linked together. Youth Services operates from the stance that any youth can become at-risk given the right circumstances: at-risk for drugs, at-risk for unsafe sexual activity, at-risk for gang involvement and at-risk for violent behavior. Below is a brief description of some of the programs and activities available.

YOUTH OPTIONS (YO!)

Youth Options is a violence prevention education program for 4th grade students.

Program Objectives:

- To teach anger management skills
- To teach decision making and problem solving methods
- To offer positive activities
- To educate youth on the effects drugs and alcohol have on violent behavior
- To educate youth on the laws that effect juveniles

This program has been very effective in teaching youth positive ways to handle conflicts that do not involve violence. The program is interactive and allows students an opportunity to share problems that they face with peers as well as with family members. The program explores violence in music, television and the media. Students are challenged to make choices in behavior and use other options such as staying in control, apologizing to diffuse an argument or fight and making a joke of the situation. A satisfaction survey is used for performance measurement. The rating showed 83% of students benefited from the Youth Options program. This finding is evidenced in the comments below.

One student wrote:

" Helped my self-esteem. Thoughts of running away but didn't, Thank you."

Gang Prevention

Gang prevention presentations are available for 6th grade students in Mesquite schools. The programs consist of:

- Definition of Gangs
- Peer pressure and gang involvement
- Gang activity, i.e. fights, drug usage, drug and weapon trafficking
- What to do if you need help
- End result - death or prison

The program allows for open discussion and questions and answers about gangs. Some students share stories of pain and suffering experienced by them and family members because of gangs. There are often students who only know of gangs from TV. For these students the program serves as a reinforcement that gangs are not positive choices but a road leading to destruction.

Horizon Afterschool Program

Youth Services implemented the Afterschool Program in the fall of 1998 as an additional means of support for youth and families in the community. Research indicates that adolescents are less likely to smoke cigarettes and participate in other risky behaviors when involved in an

Afterschool program. With this information in mind, Evans Community Center was selected as the site for the program to operate from 3:30 to 6:30pm, Monday through Thursday. The Community Center is located in an area most densely populated by low income housing and in close proximity to an elementary school where 50% of the students are on free or reduced lunch.

The goal of Horizons is to provide support to all young people age 11 to 14 in a way that promotes a healthy life style, expose youth to various cultural and recreational activities and provide alternatives to gangs, drugs and violence. The program emphasizes staying in school, positive behavior and respect for self and others. The program not only provides a safe place for kids but a place of learning and continual exposure to new and different activities.

Youth Services works with the schools and community agencies to provide support and programming for the Afterschool program. Rainbow Days, Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is "Helping young people grow up healthy, principled and caring" provides a 12-week support group teaching students the skills they need to succeed and stay drug free. Youth Services also partners with Catholic Charities that has a community services office, The Cascade Hope Center, at one of the apartment complexes to provide volunteer support and inkind donations as the need arises. This program has been successful in its programming efforts but lack the funding to adequately provide supervision of the level of risky behaviors these youth are exposed to.

National Red Ribbon Week Youth Conference

Three years ago the City, Chamber of Commerce and Mesquite Independent School District partnered to sponsor an anti-drug youth conference for middle school students. The conference hosted 175 students in 1998 and 300 students in 1999. The goal was to make an anti-drug, anti-violence, anti-gang statement to youth by helping them make positive life choices. The conference featured topics on abstinence, cultural diversity, anger management, resiliency, goal setting, community service and healthy relationships. Student participants were given a survey. They were asked to rate their knowledge of drug/violence prevention before and after the conference.

Before the conference:		*After the conference:*	
4.6%	Poor	0.4%	Poor

3.0%	Poor/Good	0.4%	Poor/Good
52.1%	Good	8.0%	Good
22.4%	Good/Excellent	21.6%	Good/Excellent
12.9%	Excellent	69.6%	Excellent

One student's comments confirmed that our efforts have lasting effects:

"I learned things we need in life, not just the next grade."

Conclusion

Mesquite Youth Services provides an array of programs for the youth in Mesquite. Our over all goal is to assist young people in making good decisions that will help them be successful in life. We could not accomplish our goal without community support. Mesquite Youth Services, Inc., is a great avenue for everyone to come to the table with ideas, expertise, resources and support. Since becoming a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, Youth Services has the ability to apply for additional funds for programs. The partnerships that are established in Mesquite allow the youth programs to be supported by several entities because of the common concern shared by all for the community.

With all the support mentioned above and the many programs we offer, there remains a need for services. There are many families that need direct intervention and direction to services that can address their needs. Funding for programs that require staff are limited. Staff is somewhat hesitant to apply for Federal Grants because the are usually field-initiated grants the have an 8 to 24 months funding cycle. It has been my experience that it takes a minimum of 24 months to implement a new program not to mention the time it takes to determine program effectiveness.

In conclusion, Youth Services has enjoyed much success in its prevention efforts. Mesquite has realized a reduction in gang activity, and criminal activity overall in the last 10 years. Youth Services plans to continue current programming and continue to look for new and innovative ways to serve youth. Staff also recognizes that there are families in need of intervention services, which we hope to provide in the future.

Youth Services has many partners committed to supporting our youth. Please join our efforts by supplying funds that are program friendly and allow for growth and development.

Thank you for caring about communities and schools.

Mr. MANNING. Thank you, committee. My name is Matt Manning and I am from Allen High School. I am the president of FCA there, it is Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

I would like to start off today by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of my generation. This is a tremendous honor for me to speak on something so dear to me. I would first like to start off by telling you a story about two boys that grew up together and met in the sixth grade.

They are normal little boys. It was in seventh grade that they both started changing. They went to parties together and experimented with drugs. Their lives soon fell apart and out of control. Both experienced total chaos. One of the boys in our story was a Christian. He grew up in a Christian family and accepted Christ at an early age. He knew all of the Bible stories and all the words to the hymns, but he really did not have a relationship with Christ. They both hit rock bottom, and that is where one of the boys found his Savior for the first time in a long time. He soon developed a personal relationship with his maker. In turn, this relationship brought him up from the depths of his own human hell. His life finally had meaning, and he felt the confidence he gained through Christ.

I wish I could tell you a good ending for the other boy. He was not as lucky to have found Christ. He hit rock bottom, and even went lower. He stayed on the road of destruction into high school. He overdosed on heroin his sophomore year. Luckily for him, he was given a second chance. He was found in time for the paramedics to revive him. I wish I could say this encounter with death changed him, but it did not. He does not have respect for life due to the fact that he has nothing to live for.

What is the major difference between these two boys? One had Christ and that has made all of the difference. Christ is the only reason that I am here today. I was one of the boys in the story. I thank Him every day for delivering me from that chaotic time in my life. The difference between me and most teens and myself is that God has delivered me from that and I have chosen to be drug free because of that. God has brought meaning into my life so I have something to live for.

I am here today for the simple reason that there is a drug problem. The use of drugs among teens has increased dramatically in the past 30 years. Researchers struggle with these facts. They are attempting to understand why so many teens have turned to drugs for answers to life problems. The fact of the matter is that every user is striving to fill a burden that is deep within their heart. In the last few years, the penalty for being caught with narcotics has increased dramatically. Although this approach has helped to decrease some abuse, it has not helped control or rid American students of the drug use.

By treating the symptom and not the disease, we continue to fail in our attempts to rescue this generation from the all-encompassing power of drugs. My solution is to give the students what their hearts and lives really need. People in society love to complain about problems around them. They never bring forth any solutions. Well, I bring to you today a fail-safe way to solve this ever-growing problem that controls teens today. The answer, I believe, is to bring

back prayer in schools. By taking God out of schools, the void needed to be replaced by something. Youth today have replaced it with drugs, alcohol, tobacco, rebellious acts against authority.

In 1962, the Supreme Court took prayer out of school, and yet, ironically, they have the Ten Commandments posted on their wall. Our country was founded In God We Trust. We have lost sight of the truth and it shows in the youth today. Youth today are seeking direction, peace and fulfillment in their lives. Fellowship of Christian Athletes and other non-denominational organizations work with athletes and other students to fill this void.

Programs for substance abuse are good, but what is really needed is a life change. The only way a life can be changed is through the soul or character of a person. This change occurred in my life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God is the only complete and everlasting cure for the substance abuse.

I hope today that I have enlightened you on the drug problem that plagues our teens today. The Supreme Court took God out of our schools, and now it is time for Congress to stand up and fight for the youth by putting God back into our schools.

Thank you very much and may God give you wisdom and insight.

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony. And we will now hear from Dora Flowers who is the security officer with Bryan Adams High School. Welcome and you are recognized.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Manning follows:]

Matthew Taylor Manning
18 Years Old
Allen, Texas
2000 Graduate Allen High School
President Fellowship of Christian Athletes
National Honor Society
Student Council – House Governor
PALs – Peer Assistance Leadership
Rotary Student of the Month
Varsity Wrestling
Varsity Swimming
Varsity Power-lifting

Statement in regards to the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice
Drug Policy and Human Resouces

Mr. Chairman and the members of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice
Drug Policy and Human Resources:

I am writing, in regards, to the increase of drug use among the youth of America. Research from SAMSA (Substance abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) shows us that out of 18,269 teens surveyed that 9.2% of males and 8.9% of female use some form of an illegal drug. Every user has their own opinion on why they consume these poisons, in which they believe to be a valid excuse for the destruction of life. They try to hide from reality and escape the world around them. Unfortunately, this fatal behavior only deceives the human mind, causing an extravagant high proceeded by the harsh reality that the problems in life still exist. The use of drug among teens has increased dramatically in the past thirty years. Researchers struggle with these facts and are attempting to understand why so many teens have turn to drugs for answers to life's problems. The fact of the matter is that every user is striving to fill a burden that is deep in their heart. In the last few years the penalty for being caught with narcotics has increased significantly. Although, this approach has helped to decrease some drug abuse, it has not help control or rid American students of drug use. By treating the symptom and not the disease, we will continue to fail in our attempts to rescue Generation X from the all-encompassing power of drugs. My solution is to give these students what their hearts and lives really need.

The answer, I believe, is to allow prayer in the schools. By taking God out of the schools, the void needed to be replaced by something. The youth today have replaced it with drugs, alcohol, tobacco and rebellious behavior against authority. History has shown since the Supreme Court ruling in 1962 Engel v. Vitale prohibiting prayer in the schools, there has been a drastic increase in substance abuse. As the SAMSA survey of 1996 revealed a 9.0% average substance abuse among teen's ages 12-17, that statistic is estimated to be even higher in the year 2000.

Youths today are seeking direction, peace and fulfillment in their lives. Fellowship of Christian Athletes and other non-denominational organization, work with athletes and other students to fill this void. Programs for substance abuse are good but what is really needed is a "life change." The only way a life can be changed is through the soul or character of the person. This change occurred in my life through a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. God's way is the only complete and everlasting cure for substance abuse and it's free.

In conclusion, in order to counteract or eradicate the substance abuse problems in the youth of America, you must reinstate prayer in the schools and eliminate laws and regulations which prevent organizations such as FCA from meeting in Public facility's. Also eliminate laws and regulations that prevent students form bringing bibles and other religious materials to school. We must support our first amendment rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

Ms. FLOWERS. First, I would like to thank Congressman Pete Sessions for inviting me and giving me this opportunity to be a part of this very important hearing on drug prevention in the schools and community. I would like to start my remarks with my statement.

Texas schools would be safer if all students had easy access to a system for anonymously reporting criminal activities on school campus. Students are often the first to know when another student is bringing drugs. However, fear of being labeled a snitch, or retaliation may keep them from notifying authorities.

Parents should take a more active role in policing their own homes. Knowing the friends your child chooses and being aware of activities they are involved in and communicating with your child about drug use and periodically searching their rooms, if you suspect drug usage. Parents and school faculty needs to be trained to recognize the early warning signs that a student may show before doing or selling drugs.

Educate the communities by having schools, churches and organizations work together to educate parents about the effects of drugs. Provide drug prevention programs with trained and real-life experiencing people who can give you real insight and information about the drug crisis in our schools and community. Adopt prevention and awareness programs targeting drug trafficking intervention programs for families that are drug users, where the student will receive help before it becomes a serious problem. Provide after-school and weekend activities for students, offer youth mentoring programs.

And in summary, I would like to just mention that Texas schools would be safer if students are allowed to report anonymously the crimes that are taking place in the schools, parents policing their homes, educating the parents and community with resources that will enable them to cope with these issues.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Flowers follows:]

Congressional Hearing
Held on June 5,2000

Subject: "Effective Drug Prevention Efforts in our Schools and Communities

Place: West Mesquite High School
2500 Memorial Parkway
Mesquite, TX

Written Statement By: Dora Flowers

Effective Drug Prevention Efforts in our Schools and Communities

Texas Schools would be safer if all students had easy access to a system for anonymously reporting criminal activities on school campus. Students are often the first to know when another student is bringing drugs. However, fear of being labeled a " Snitch" or retaliation may keep them from notifying authorities.

Parents should take a more active role in policing their own homes. Knowing the friends your child chooses and being aware of the activities they are involved in and communicating with your child about drugs use and periodically searching their rooms if you suspect drug usage. Parents and school faculty needs to be trained to recognize the early warning signs that a student may show before doing or selling drugs.

Educate the communities by having schools, churches, and other organizations work together to educate parents about the effects of drugs. Provide drug prevention programs with trained and real life experiences people who cam give you real insight and information about this drug crisis in our schools and community. Adopt prevention and awareness programs targeting drug trafficking, intervention programs for families that are drug users. Where the student receives help before it become a serious problem. Provide after school and weekend activities for students, offer youth mentoring.

In summary, Texas schools would be safer if students are allowed to report anonymously the crimes that are taking place in the schools: parents policing their homes and educating the parent and the community with resources that will enable them to cope with these issues.

By Dora Flowers
Para Professional Advisor (Campus Officer)
Bryan Adams High School

Mr. MICA. Thank you for your testimony. I thank each of the witnesses for their insight and comments to our panel.

First of all, Ms. Mitchell, I am not certain exactly how this Youth Services program is funded. I read in the testimony, it says, since becoming a 501(c)(3). Is this now completely a private operation with public money going into it, and contributions? How are these activities funded?

Ms. MITCHELL. Well, the majority of the staff is funded through the city, through public taxpayer money, and then we do have the incorporation so that we can apply for——

Mr. MICA. I am not sure we can pick that up.

Ms. MITCHELL. OK. And then we also have the incorporation, Mesquite Youth Services, Inc., so that we can be eligible to apply for additional funds for our programs as they arise.

Mr. MICA. One of the criticisms you cited was it takes a long time, first of all, to apply for Federal grants. And then a considerable amount of time to get a program implemented. What can be done to short-circuit that process? Do you think if there is some other direction of funds through State block granting, then on down to these local organizations, would that expedite it?

Ms. MITCHELL. I think that would be helpful. You know, as I stated in my testimony, with the funding cycles being as short as they are, by the time you hire staff and you get the program, you know, up and running, then your money—you have expended all of your money. And my thought is, you know, if this—and then the thought behind that is, you know, for the city to find alternate ways to fund the program, if they think it is effective. And my thought behind that is, you know, of course, if we have alternative funding, you know, we would do it from within to begin with.

As far as the money coming down to CDBG, I think that would certainly be helpful. We have applied for funds through the State process, the criminal justice division.

Mr. MICA. Is that faster?

Ms. MITCHELL. Yes.

Mr. MICA. It is.

Ms. MITCHELL. And the process is easier.

But along with that, you know, coming from a suburb where we do not have the devastation that some communities face, oftentimes it is very hard for us to compete for those funds because of that.

Mr. MICA. Well, we have heard similar criticisms. But any time you try to block grant all of the funds, substance, mental health money, I think we now have about 80 percent coming through the States in the form of block grants. Unfortunately, I think a hearing we conducted within the last year on this showed that we are using a large percent of the money, and I think it is in the neighborhood of $129 million, and 80-some percent of the staff to now oversee some 20 percent of the programs, which leads me to believe that we might look at block-granting the entire amount. The only problem is, everyone who now participates on any type of a Federal grant project basis lobbies Congress not to do away with those individual programs.

What do you think?

Ms. MITCHELL. Well, I do not know that I necessarily have an opinion. But you know, if there is a program out there and that is their main existence, then you certainly do not want to remove that if that program is effective.

Mr. MICA. But your experience and your testimony seems to indicate, one, it takes a long time to get access to a Federal grant; two, that the competition is——

Ms. MITCHELL. Is very stiff.

Mr. MICA [continuing]. Is very difficult, and then I guess the third thing is that it takes a long time for implementation.

Ms. MITCHELL. Right.

Mr. MICA. But your experience in getting the funds through the State——

Ms. MITCHELL. It is a simpler process.

Mr. MICA [continuing]. Is a simpler process.

Mr. Manning, you cited a personal experience and religious experience that helped you turn away from narcotics. One of the sort of hands-off areas of Congress is to support anything with a religious connotation, because again, there are some constitutional questions.

How can we do a better job, in your opinion, from a public standpoint, if we cannot always support these non-public activities or religious activities? What have you seen that we are doing or not doing that could do a better effort in helping combat the problem of illegal narcotics used by our young people?

Mr. MANNING. First, we all have to remember that God is in the business of changing hearts and changing lives, and that is free for everyone. And with the schools today, I mean, our society has gotten so, you know, separate State and religion, you know, that our schools have become anti-Christian. That it is now, it is so much harder to become a Christian in your school, it is harder to pray in school, it is harder to have an assembly in school. You know, I have heard of some schools that get in trouble for bringing Bibles to school, for handing out pamphlets that deal with religion.

And maybe if, you know, kind of subconsciously you guys help—allow us to spread the word in school. I mean, the Christians in our school will do that.

Mr. MICA. You do not feel there should be a prohibition, there should be a little bit more openness to people exercise religious freedom or rights in school.

Mr. MANNING. Yes.

Mr. MICA. I guess you do have a problem if it is taught or imposed in any way. But that is not what you were talking about.

Mr. MANNING. I know recently in Allen, we no longer have prayer at football games. That is something that we have grown up with. And you know, whenever you go to a football game, you are just used to hearing someone pray. And now the State has made it illegal for us to pray. And that is something, as a Christian, I do not understand, because people are always searching for something. And we have the answer, and it is just like our State is making us illegal to give the answer, you know. We know, it is like if we have a drought here, and there is only one waterhole left, we know where the waterhole is, and can we lead them to the waterhole, or is it going to be illegal to lead them to the waterhole?

Mr. MICA. Ms. Flowers, you are a school security officer. How serious a challenge are we facing in the school that you are associated with?

Ms. FLOWERS. Well, I feel we are facing a serious problem. I can give you my personal testimony of experiences that I have had in combating that problem. Like I stressed in my statement, students are more informed than we are. That is the reality of the problem. And I have had students that would come to me and confide in me and give me information that led to successful busts. And they know most of the time before we do who is bringing them in, who are the users, who are the sellers.

Mr. MICA. How long have you been in your position?

Ms. FLOWERS. Three years.

Mr. MICA. And is the situation better, worse, the same?

Ms. FLOWERS. I would say it is about the same. We have had some success, but I feel we are still far away from it because of the fact that the students do not have any access to do it anonymously. Because there is a lot of them out there that really are crying out for help, and they do want to act on it, but they are afraid. Afraid of being labeled a snitch or afraid of retaliation.

Mr. MICA. So you think that they need some additional means by which they can try to deal with the situation, and also get information to you? Is there anything specific that we can do to assist in that? Any constraints you are under by the Federal Government, or other agencies?

Ms. FLOWERS. Well, I do not know what it entails or takes in order for them to have some form of hotline, OK? 1–800 hotline for the students in the schools, where they can report it, and then train people, personnel to followup with investigation.

I have experienced parents also that have cried out for help, for intervention, as Ms. Mitchell has mentioned in her testimony about the programs that they offer, but there is not enough. In the inner school, I have not one program that I can refer parents that come to me for help.

I had a situation, I would like to share this, and I think you will get a better understanding of what I am saying. I had a parent come to me with a picture that her daughter received from a student with a gun that she had put to her head, and gave her the picture saying, we will be friends to death. Now that is a sign of some form of gang activity. She was terrified, she secretly took that picture and brought it to the school to share it with us to find out, what can I do to get my child out of this situation? And when I referred this information over to the Dallas police officer that works on our campus, he said, it is not a criminal act, that she just found a picture.

At that point, I personally counseled with the lady and just told her that I feel that you need to police your own home, be more aware of the activities that your daughter is doing, be more aware of her friends that she hangs out with, set some boundaries, and that. But I had no program that I could refer her to that could actually come in with their expertise and intervene at that point.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. Mr. Sessions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Ms. Flowers, as you know, I served as principal for a day at Bryan Adams High School, and you and I, I think,

formed a very quick relationship, mostly because I was on your watch, your beat, I walked a mile in your sandals. I was very impressed with how you handled problems, friends and made sure that people understood that you were doing your job.

My question to you this morning is, we have heard a lot of testimony here today of some people who said that police officers were there to do their job, and that is why people did not want to come in contact with them. Do you find—in other words, Mr. Bowen stated that you do not really want to give it to a police officer because they might do something with it.

When I was in high school, I felt like—and I came from a different family, my father was the U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Texas at the time, in San Antonio. I felt like that students needed to turn it in, and wanted something to be done about it. I felt like the kids, more than half the students, well more than half the students do not want to be engaged in or see drugs in their schools. Do you believe that your students do not want drugs in their schools and would like something done about it?

Ms. FLOWERS. Definitely. Yes, I do. And not only that, they have came and felt comfortable confiding in our youth action office. And there is so many out there that want to do even more, but it is also important that they have other options, too. And that is why I stress the anonymous hotline, a line that they can call for those that are not as courageous or those that are more fearful, that they will have another outlet that they can use to get that information to our office or wherever it is needed in order for them to follow through and investigate on the drugs that are being brought into our schools.

Mr. SESSIONS. Do you feel like, as the front-line officer——

Ms. FLOWERS. Definitely.

Mr. SESSIONS [continuing]. That you, as the front-line officer, do you feel like that if some child, student brings something to you, that you can do something about it? That the process above you—not below you but above you—understands what it is going to do, including another police officer, including your principal, that they understand the seriousness, and does it work?

Ms. FLOWERS. Yes, it works very well. It is very effective. It works.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, I might say that I have seen you in action when I think other people might have backed off. You stuck to a procedure, you stuck to a process and you believe in what you are doing. That is why I asked you to be here today, because I believe that you are not only the role model we need, but the example. And I will tell you that, one thing that I will take from this is that I recognize we need to work with our State legislators and also other law enforcement officers, to get us to have a process where you can take information and do something about it, because I think the students are willing, as you have suggested here today, and the testimony, to be a part of what they are doing. Mr. Manning, I believe, has indicated the same thing. And I believe Ms. Mitchell understands that if we can work in our schools when students are there, and work effectively, that we can do something about it.

I yield back my time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Sessions. I will recognize Mr. Souder.

Mr. SOUDER. Ms. Mitchell, we heard in the first panel from Gary Westphal, and we have heard about the number of programs. Are you the same youth services that he was talking about?

Ms. MITCHELL. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. OK, are you a different division in intervention? Like you are not involved in the Slama-Bama-Jama?

Ms. MITCHELL. Right. I am not under the police department, but under the Parks and Recreation Department. But in conjunction with that, I serve as the staff advisor to Mesquite Youth Services, Inc.

Mr. SOUDER. So Youth Services has a series of different types of programs?

Ms. MITCHELL. Yes. And we work very closely, you know, with the schools. Someone earlier, I think Chairman Mica asked me about funding. And the school district has been very forthcoming in helping us to sponsor our programs as needed. And so we really have enjoyed community support with donations. We have service organizations that have raised funding for my first-year salary when I came aboard in 1991, that also purchased a van for Youth Services to help us with our programs. So again, we have really enjoyed a lot of community support, when it comes to helping us keep our programs going, and keeping that development there.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Manning, you said that you were one of the two students you described in the beginning of your testimony. And that you found Christ. Did somebody talk to you, did it come out of your own experience? Was it through your family?

Mr. MANNING. I grew up in a Christian family, and I mean, my parents were great Christians, and they raised me in the church. And from day 1 I was in the church. And I knew who God was, but I did not really know him. I did not have the relationship with him. I mean, I kind of believed in him, but Satan also believes in God, so I mean, that is not something you can go on.

But it as at that point in my life, whenever I hit rock bottom, that there was nowhere else to go, that God put me flat on my face, and then I realized what a relationship meant with Him. And that is whenever I had a personal relationship with Him, and really knew Him. And it totally changed my life from then on.

Mr. SOUDER. Had you gotten involved with other kids?

Mr. MANNING. Yeah, I was in athletics, and I was in swimming. And I was decent in swimming, I was on the State level, and I hurt my shoulder. And you know, after that I really had nothing to do. And you know, free time after school or whatever, and I got in on the wrong crowd. And it just went from there, started snowballing from there.

Mr. SOUDER. I know this is personal, but as a dad with three kids, and I struggle with the same question with my kids, and we have heard testimony in multiple hearings about the difficulties of parents. Do you think your parents suspected that? I mean, I have a son who is about to turn 21, you know, he likes rock music, and we are a strongly Christian family. And as a parent, it is hard to know when to ask what questions. Do you want to be too judgmental? If you come down too hard, will they back away even farther? What would you have done differently if you were your dad?

Mr. MANNING. I certainly hope I am never in that situation.

Mr. SOUDER. But you probably will be.

Mr. MANNING. I know that. I know that.

I do not know. I mean, my parents were always there for me and they were always loving on me. I think they realized that there was something going on there. They did not know exactly what it was. I guess they were kind of trusting me to tell them, and I really never got around to it. And I finally came to a point in my life when I hit rock bottom, and that is when I really found out about it. So I mean——

Mr. SOUDER. That is when the roots were planted correctly. The fear that you have as a parent is that, you know, an accident or something will happen before you come off the rock bottom. And that is our difficulty.

I want to ask you one question. This is not intended to be a trick question, it is a straight-forward question.

Mr. MANNING. OK.

Mr. SOUDER. If there was a football team that was made up of a majority of Black Muslims, and they went out on the field and wanted to have a prayer to Allah, would you favor that?

Mr. MANNING. I mean, that is their freedom right there.

Mr. SOUDER. Because that is the fundamental question we face in the religious liberty. We have to be consistent if we are going to allow it. And need to be student-led. We filed a brief, a number of us in Congress, in support of the Texas appeal. If they get a favorable appeal, it will probably be that it has to be student led. The danger here is that then it is majority vote, to some degree. I mean, I fundamentally, completely agree that we have replaced Christianity and the Judeo-Christian principles with a secular humanism that is not in science. It is in philosophy, it is in sociology, and we are wrestling with it. But we are also walking an interesting line here with the diversity in our country, that we have to be prepared to defend religious liberty if we are going to advocate it.

Mr. MANNING. Actually, I have a pretty good friend of mine, he is Muslim, and we discuss it all the time, and I have tried to convert him a few times. But at our graduation, a girl was told what prayer she could say. She is a Christian, and I have been to her church a few times. She wrote out a prayer and let me read it. I was like, that is great, that is awesome. And then she turned it in to our principal, and he rewrote it and told her what she could say. She showed me that, and said, well, I am not going to say it. It is my freedom, you know, to say my own prayer. And so she went and said that prayer, the prayer that she prepared, and she said Jesus' name, and that is the only name nowadays that offends people.

I talked to my friend that was Muslim, and he was like, it did not offend me at all, because that is—I understand your religion because you talk to me so much about it. And I know my beliefs, and it did not offend me at all. I was glad that she got to pray the way she felt like she needed to pray.

I guess it is more tolerance to other religions, I do not know how that would work. If they want to pray their prayer and let us pray our prayer, that is great. Just allow us to do that, allow us to have that free assembly of what we need.

Mr. SOUDER. Well, thanks for your willingness to speak out and to have the courage to do that.

Ms. Flowers, I have a question for you as well. We have a hotline in my district, and a lot of schools have it as well, it is anonymous. It still gets called snitch line. But it is better, because at least you have some means, and particularly in the guns area. It was real interesting, it was a snitch line until Columbine, and then all of a sudden the kids decided that maybe it was a help line. And that changed a lot of attitudes. We need that same thing to happen in guns.

But as a practical matter, one of the problems that we get into here is the kids often know a lot of things that you do not or the parents do not about other kids. They also know a whole bunch of things are not true because they traffic in gossip and rumor. How do we sort this through and how do you deal with that type of question? Because I hear—sometimes if you hear your kids talk, 80 percent of the kids are doing something as opposed to—in fact, they come home, and you think everybody's got a brand-new car, can be out until 3 a.m., and that soon as you come down on them, they come up with a whole bunch of other people, some of which is true.

And then we have a novelty problem that we ran into when we tried a law of parent accountability. And it happened in Los Angeles on gang accountability. And as I talked to a lot of single moms trying to raise their kids, one of the things that they said that their kids were doing is that, when the parents practiced discipline on them, and we had a parent accountability, they turned their parents in with false charges. And that intimidated the parents from enforcement.

What do you with the really hard-core types who can turn an anonymous tip situation around on us? Have you thought that through? Have you run into that with any of the kids at school?

Ms. FLOWERS. Well, we have a file on their disciplinary problems, and on character. I mean, you have to judge the person that is giving you the information, and thoroughly investigate it. And basically that is how we really deal with our students that are considered, "informants." And just judge by their character and their own life, if this is really going to be credible information. But we follow through on every report. I mean, I cannot say, no. And most of the time, it is some legitimate information that you can use bits and pieces. But I do not turn away a report.

Mr. SOUDER. So you have not seen, like, one gang trying to get another gang in trouble, necessarily?

Ms. FLOWERS. No, I have not.

Mr. SOUDER. Even in Colombia, when we took down the Medallion Cartel, it was because the Calle Cartel decided they wanted to eliminate them. I mean, we have our own DEA and CIA cannot figure out half the time whether their guys are two-way or one-way. But it is interesting, as we start to get into the anonymous tip lines at school, how we are going to address those questions.

But thank you all for your time and willingness to be involved.

Mr. MICA. Well, I want to again thank the three panelists that we had here, for your participation, also for the insight into your local programs and your activities with the school that you police, Bryan Adams High School. And also thank Mr. Manning for his

recommendations and personal commitment that he has made in coming forward today and providing the subcommittee, again, with his experience.

Mr. Souder had moved that the record be open for a period of 2 weeks, so if anyone has additional information, testimony they would like to be made part of this record, feel free to submit it to the subcommittee through the Chair or through Mr. Sessions.

I do want to take a moment to thank Mr. Sessions, not only for his invitation to be here and learn from this local experience and from the individuals involved in education, drug prevention, law enforcement in his community today, but also for his past great assistance and leadership in the Congress in this most difficult problem area that we are facing. It is probably one of our greatest national challenges. I thank him again for having us in his community and for the opportunity to work with him in trying to resolve some of these problems.

There being no further business then to come before the subcommittee, I declare this meeting adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:09 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

[Additional information submitted for the hearing record follows:]

CLUB DRUGS

In the DEA Dallas Field Division
May 22, 2000

This report addresses the presence of "Club Drugs" within the Dallas Field Division. "Club Drugs" is a general term for a number of illicit drugs, primarily synthetic, that are most commonly encountered at nightclubs and "raves."

A rave is an organized lawful event that produces unlawful acts, especially drug use, which earn profits from organizers and financiers. The events are advertised to appeal to the teen to mid 30 age group, who gather from 10:00 PM to 9:00 AM in a musical psychedelic atmosphere of flashing lights, videos, smoke, fog, fire, and sparks. The dance area is usually not air-conditioned, however a cool down room is provided to prevent heat exhaustion. Drug paraphernalia include inhalers and Vaporub to further enhance the effects of the drugs.

The drugs include MDMA, Ketamine, GHB, Rohypnol, LSD, PCP, methamphetamine, and, to a lesser extent, cocaine and psilocybin mushrooms. These substances have gained popularity primarily due to the false perception that they are not as harmful, nor as addictive, as mainstream drugs such as heroin.

Intelligence obtained by the DEA Dallas Field Division Strategic Intelligence Group indicates that Club Drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, and Ketamine are becoming increasingly available in the Dallas Field Division, while Rohypnol distribution is falling slightly. The relative affordability and availability of these Club Drugs have made them increasingly popular among teens and college-age youth in the area.

MDMA - (3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is readily available in west and northwest Oklahoma City nightclubs, being sold under the name of "Ecstasy". All Dallas Field Division offices are reporting an increase in the popularity of hallucinogens being purchased by the young adult population, particularly college age youth at nightclubs and all-night dance parties (RAVES). MDMA being combined with heroin is also being reported by treatment centers and emergency rooms.

Recently several nightclubs catering to teenagers have opened in the Oklahoma City area. MDMA (Ecstasy) is reportedly being sold to teens that frequent the clubs. Ketamine is also very popular with teens at these nightclubs. Intelligence from the Oklahoma City District Office also indicates that "huffing" (the use of inhalants to obtain a "high") is also becoming increasingly popular with very young children (age 6-12), as well as with teens.

The DEA Tyler Resident Office contacted the Texas Department of Public Safety Laboratory for club drug seizures reported from May 1999 to the present in the East Texas area. During this time frame, MDMA has only been seen in tablet form, ranging in weight from 300 to 400 milligrams. Tyler reported no incidents involving Ketamine.

Information from the Collin County Sheriff's Office indicates that while GHB does not have a stronghold in their area, MDMA has become increasingly popular. Young people frequenting raves in rural areas and at warehouses within the urban areas, gravitate towards a combination drug known on the street as "White Buddha". White Buddha is a combination of heroin and MDMA. The white pills carry the unique odor of sassafras or root beer, which is indicative of the MDMA they are made of. Recently a traffic stop in Collin County led to the arrest of a 27-year-old body builder. At the time of his arrest, this individual was in possession of 145 White Buddha tablets. The tablets had been purchased in Houston at a Rave for $10 each. These White Buddha tablets normally sell for $20-$25 each in the Dallas area. Collin County Sheriff's Office also reports several recent Ketamine thefts from veterinary supply shops in the area.

The Netherlands remains a primary source for MDMA destined for the Dallas area. Amsterdam was cited as a source country in two recent investigations. The office of U.S. Customs in Dallas reports an investigation in April of this year, where Customs Agents intercepted a package at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. The package originated in Amsterdam and was destined for Dallas and contained approximately 1,100 tablets of MDMA. The package was shipped to Dallas where a controlled delivery took place. This delivery resulted in the arrest of three individuals and the identity of the Amsterdam source of supply, which Customs Agents expect to arrest in the near future. U.S. Customs is currently working on several MDMA smuggling organizations with ties to the Dallas/Fort worth Metroplex.

In April of 2000, ATF arrested a female individual at Love Field who had 25,000 MDMA tablets taped to her person. The woman had flown via commercial airline from El Paso to Love Field. She indicated pursuant to her arrest, that she had purchased the MDMA tablets in Juarez, Mexico.

GHB – Gamma hydra Butrate continues to be seen among the young adult white population at nightclubs, particularly in the Dallas and Tyler, Texas areas. The Tyler office reports that most of the GHB available in their area is being obtained from the Dallas area. It has also been reported that instructions on how to manufacture GHB can be found on the Internet.

The DPS in Tyler reports that increasing availability is being noted in area Country Western Clubs. The Tyler RO is currently developing information regarding the distribution of GHB in that area.

In west Texas, an overdose was reportedly related to the use of GHB in Lubbock, Texas during the month of March 2000. In addition, the Lubbock Resident Office has recently received information involving the transportation of GHB Florida to Lubbock via United Parcel Service.

GHB abuse has been documented in the area since 1998 when five Plano residents were treated at the Medical Center of Plano for GHB related health complications. The drug

was mixed with alcohol at a local party. In February 2000, ATF also arrested an individual with 64 hits of powder GHB on his person.

GBL – According to the Tyler RO, GBL can be purchased commercially and once it is injected, it is converted to GHB. The Tyler DPS reported only one incident involving GBL, which was purchased over the Internet.

ROHYPNOL – Rohypnol is still being seen on occasion in the Dallas Field Division, though not as often as in recent years. Intelligence indicates that due to the lower prices of GHB and the ease of manufacturing it, GHB and Ketamine have replaced Rohypnol as the "drug of choice" in the "club scene" in the reporting area. According to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA), Rohypnol treatments are increasing and Rivotril is being substituted for Rohypnol. The last reported incident impacting the east Texas area was reported in a 1997 DEA Tyler investigation; sixty tablets were intercepted at the Laredo border crossing destined for the Tyler area.

LSD - The trafficking trends for the distribution of LSD in the Lubbock, Texas area remain constant. The Tyler Resident Office also reports a steady increase in the use of LSD in the area. In Tyler, mostly young white students are abusing LSD, which they purchase in urban areas. Task Force Group II in the Dallas Field Division continues to see an increase in the availability of LSD, which is popular in the young adult nightclubs in the Deep Ellum area. Local law enforcement agencies in the Fort Worth and Arlington, Texas areas indicates that LSD is still being abused by juveniles and youth.

PCP – The only report of PCP was in the east Texas community of Center, Texas. No details were given by the Texas DPS.

PRICES

LOCATION	DRUG	PRICE PER DOSAGE UNIT
DALLAS	LSD	$2-$10
	MDMA	$20-$25 (including MDMA/HEROIN combination)
	GHB	$20
	PCP	$10 ($500 per ounce)
FORT WORTH	LSD	$6-$10
LUBBOCK	LSD	$7 ($500 per sheet of 100 du)
OKLAHOMA CITY	LSD	$5-$7
	MDMA	$15-$25 $12 (if more than 200 tablets)
	PCP	$10-$15
	GHB	$10-$20
	ROHYPNOL	$3-$5
TULSA	LSD	$1-$10
TYLER	LSD	$5-$10

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June 13, 2000

Rep. Pete Sessions
1318 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

REFERENCE: Committee hearing at Mesquite, TX on June 5, 2000

Dear Sir:

I attended the reference hearing and would like to suggest the information and thoughts I provide here be added with the testimony taken from the three groups at the hearing. In this letter I address not only drugs locally but also drug entry into the U.S, plus my opinions of our current drug problem generally including our national capability to solve such problems. My strong interest in this subject results from my having had a son choose the "drug life" at about 13-14 years old back in the 1960s and early 1970s while he was a student in the Richardson, TX school district. The consequences of his choice were near a disaster for my family. I do not remember a single school authority ever approaching me about this building disaster.

1) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HISTORICALLY SEEMS EXCELLENT AT SOLVING "THING PROBLEMS", BUT SEEMS INHERENTLY INCAPABLE OF SOLVING "PEOPLE PROBLEMS"

During my near 50-year engineering career with three major corporations, I have observed the slow decline of our "national condition" coincident with increasing huge federal expenditures seeking to solve "problems" causing the decline. I have voted in all elections in my residence state since 1948.

The testimony, questions and information provided by those close to the problem at the reference hearing support and reinforce my conclusion reached long ago: There simply is no **legally viable** way to stop more than a "trace" of the introduction of illegal drugs into the U.S.

A U.S. Army Major General several years ago participated in a group discussing the topic, ***"using the military to secure our borders"***. The General said in effect, "My division (20,000+ troops) fully trained and equipped as they are, assigned the correct

length of border based on terrain characteristics, can prevent **anyone** or **anything** from crossing our assigned stretch of border illegally --- ***BUT NOT UNDER THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES***." He continued, "My troops are trained as soldiers, **NOT** policemen. My troops read no 'miranda' rights to anyone; they would not care who, what or how many were violating the border -- those violators would stop and go back or be shot. There would be no 'good guys' or 'bad guys' -- just people or vehicles trying to cross the assigned border stretch illegally. My officers and men would use any and all means at their disposal to prevent intrusions -- period."

My opinion for years has been that the United States Government is **excellent** at providing and maintaining **"things"** -- dams, highways, harbors, bridges, tunnels, military equipment and bases -- things that have a finite end-product that can be seen, measured and identified -- "Project Completed". But when masses of people are considered, I do not believe I ever have seen a problem solved via the political systems of the United States Government. Fighting fires, endlessly, with more and more taxpayer funds for relief of pain from problems, but never solving the problems, is the norm. Thus congress keeps adding endless taxpayer funds into balm to soothe the pain for many -- with many others not even taking advantage of what is offered. Historically, the moment a new "people problem" program is started, well-meaning perhaps, a bureaucracy appears, grows like fungus, takes on a life of its own and is with us seemingly forever. With time, more and more taxpayer money is spent to bloat it far beyond any reasonable point of diminishing returns. To me, it appears the government avoids recognition of any realistic "point of diminishing returns" to stop the acceleration of an expensive program that is not solving a problem. Like during prohibition, people will make drugs, go across the border to get them, find more and more devious ways to import them.

The U.S. cannot afford politically to inflame the "bleeding heart" voting mass that would think effective draconian measures to stop the drug flow were simply "horrible."

Mr. Sessions, the facts at this time indicate to me that the United States public is not strong enough to accept the measures that would be required to effectively prevent drugs from entering the U.S. and infiltrating our communities and schools.

I believe a whole new approach to our drug problem from a technical direction is warranted in light of the poor success we have had fighting drugs legally under the restraints of our current political and legal systems. A technical solution would be less visible and harmless to the sensibilities of people who have never had the problem yet now will **complain loudly** about the law being "harsh" to those in the drug pipeline.

2) U.S. CODDLING OF THOSE IN THE DRUG TRADE ASSURES DEFEAT.

Prisons are full and now coddling of accused criminals generally has accelerated exponentially. One can only imagine the lawsuits over firm military protection of our borders when illegal aliens of all stripes, rich or poor, in California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona can get nearly all the legal protection privileges of a native citizen in a police

problem. We could not apply the "sword in the town square" as the Saudi Arabians do when **anyone** there is caught with drugs **period** -- user, buyer or seller.

3) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT CAREFULLY DESIGNED MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAMS BY INDUSTRY SOURCES SEEKING A TECHNICAL METHOD TO DISABLE -- RENDER INEFFECTIVE OR OTHERWISE UNUSABLE -- ANY DRUGS THAT DO REACH THE BORDERS.

A solution to the drug problem is at the least as important as a cure for cancer, heart attacks, or the other deadly natural debilitating medical problem in our population. Overdose deaths, brain damage, children debauched, families destroyed, citizens and non-citizens unable to work or even function in public -- these are things drugs cause that are just as destructive to our society as the aforementioned natural diseases.

I would like to suggest that the U.S. Government support (**not run**) several research programs chaired by very technically competent experts in several fields to develop one or more methods of locating and rendering any mass of drugs ineffective and thus useless to an addict. This might be possible using radiation, laser penetration of containers, infra-red techniques, sonic applications, or other current technological marvels. There are many other things existing today that have simply amazing purposes. I am not technically trained in these fields of physics and cannot suggest the best approaches. I have seen many "technological marvels" come into existence during my career and I brand nothing impossible for a well-selected team assembled, focused on a problem and left alone to do their assigned tasks with no interference from political sources.

Examples:

a) With only the instruction, "we need a better way!", I revised a design patented by an obscure inventor for trapping and neutralizing poisonous gasses from chemical plant processing equipment and made a highly successful high-rate truck-mounted oil field cement mixer out of it and while at it, added a new radiation device to monitor the density of the cement mixture flowing through its heavy piping. **This was in 1961.**

b) Another example: Very costly Infrared systems developed for night detection from airplanes of enemy troops and vehicles during the Viet Nam war now are highly developed and available at a reasonable cost for use on TV station helicopters, by Police, even in automobiles for safety, and for other domestic and military night surveillance and security applications.

c) An amazing example: One laboratory team connected sophisticated equipment to a flea so its nervous system signals were monitored like on a "lie detector". That flea's nervous system would "go crazy" as its container was moved to within a short distance of a sweaty human body. This basic research was to develop an "intrusion detector" for military use to detect the presence of enemy troops in hostile territory.

U.S. industry research groups can do almost anything if supported adequately.

SUGGESTION FOR ASSISTING TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

I have been an auto license plate collector for many years. I know the value of vehicle license plate county of origin identification in certain instances to law enforcement officers. In 1975, Texas last replated all vehicles, began using renewal stickers, and by 1976 the system of numbering had erased any possibility of recognition of where a vehicle was licensed from. Today, five Texas automobiles, parked beside eachother in a shopping center lot might be from Texline, Orange, Texarkana, Brownsville and El Paso yet no one could recognize this without communications with the TXDOT. Before 1976, an officer could recognize where a vehicle had been licensed by "knowing" the plate letter system of issuance in the state. The Texas Department of Public Safety then, published a booklet yearly providing all license plate numbers for all types of vehicles issued to each of the 254 counties. I possess a copy of the 1974 and 1975 editions.

We need this lost identification today as an aide to drug interdiction. A new numbering system and plate design should be devised and produced at Huntsville so that within a year or so, county of origin identification would again become established on vehicles, but very subtly. Some states continue to do it today in various ways, and some European countries have such "hidden" information in their otherwise routine appearing auto plates. I believe this would assist our law enforcement personnel immensely to be able to recognize the vehicles from "afar", not unlike block watch participants in neighborhoods keeping their eyes open to recognize strangers and vehicles not normally in their areas. Governor Bush should be made aware of this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

Alan G. Smith, P.E.