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REPORT FROM THE FRONTLINE: FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO SOUTH AURORA

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

SEPTEMBER 22, 1997

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REPORT FROM THE FRONTLINE: FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO SOUTH AURORA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1997

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

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in the Auditorium, Illinois Math & Science Academy, 1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora, IL, Hon. J. Dennis Hastert (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Hastert, Mica, and Blagojevich.

Staff present: Dale Anderson, senior investigative counsel; Pete Jeffries, communications director; and Amy Davenport, clerk.

Mr. HASTERT. Good morning. The Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice will come to order. If everybody will please find a seat, we will get started.

First, let me thank everybody for coming today. Drug abuse and international drug trafficking is an issue, as many of you know, that I care deeply about. These drugs undermine our society and our communities, they contribute to gang violence, and they destroy young lives.

This morning we will discuss the close link between drug violence here in Aurora and King County and the Fox Valley and our Federal efforts, together with other countries, to stop these drugs where they are growing. I am especially concerned about the cocaine, crack, heroin, and marijuana that are really getting into our—across our borders and into our communities.

And today much of our attention will focus on the relationship between the coca cultivation in Colombia and sale of cocaine which occurs on the street corners of cities and towns right here in the Fox Valley.

And let me just mention several facts that we can't ignore. Last year nearly 20,000 Americans died of drug abuse or drug crime. Heroin use among teens nearly doubled, and we still do not know yet properly or do we properly educate our kids about the dangers inherent in drug use. Only one-quarter of our teens say their parents talk to them about drugs.

Hopefully all of you have this map of the Western Hemisphere. Let me explain our basic Federal model for defeating drugs.

First, we championed demand reduction. We passed, for example, the Drug-Free Communities Act this year, adding up to $100,000 for every community that antidrug coalition in America.

Second, we look beyond our borders, and we want to stop the cultivation of drug plants in South America.

Third, we must stop the trafficking of those drugs through our borders. And this is called interdiction.

Fourth, drugs which slip through our borders must be discovered by law enforcement.

And finally, drugs which are available on our street corners and in schools must be rejected by our children and adults. And when our citizens become addicted to drugs, there must be a viable alternative available which gives them a chance to beat addiction.

Before we begin, let me add that the vast majority of the cocaine which enters this country, about 80 percent, originates in Colombia, or, at least, it is manufactured in Colombia. Much of it originates in Peru and Bolivia and is shipped in to Colombia.

But our citizens and our youth buy it, and that leads to pain both here and there. I don't want to steal anyone's thunder here, but I think you will find it interesting to listen to Mr. Pancho Kinney, Director of Strategic Planning for the Drug Czar, the ONDCP, as he explains the process of cultivation and trafficking. How is the crop cultivated, and what are the police in countries like Colombia doing about cultivation?

Another important question is, What can the United States do about cultivation of a crop in a foreign country? I recently went, accompanied by the two gentlemen with me, Congressman Mica of Florida and Congressman Blagojevich of Illinois, more specifically Chicago—we went to Colombia. We went to find out for ourselves what was going on down there. And perhaps importantly, I learned that the Colombians desperately want and need our help to win the escalating war against well-funded drug cartels.

We have the honor today of the presence of the Ambassador from Colombia, a man who I have had the privilege of working with for several years, and a man of integrity and great honor. We will explain—he will explain what Colombia is doing to win the war against drugs in Colombia.

Then we will hear from some highly informed local witnesses about the impact these drugs are having on our communities. We will also hear from several members of law enforcement dedicated to rooting out drug traffickers in the streets of the cities of Illinois. These will include Sgt. Roy Garcia, who is a 23-year police veteran fighting the drug traffickers in the streets and the cities of Illinois, and Chief Larry Langston of the Aurora Police Department.

Again, I do not want to steal their thunder, but I know they would agree that police alone cannot win this fight. They simply don't have the resources to do it alone. We have to educate our kids and keep the pressure on with our allies in places like Colombia.

We are also going to hear from a local friend, Ms. Judy Kraemer, president of the Illinois Drug Education Alliance, IDEA, and Dr. Bob Barwa, principal of East Aurora High School and national president of Operation Snowball.

These witnesses will explain the best prevention programs so that we can protect our children from drugs both in the schools and on our street corners. And we will hear testimony about the treatment programs which will help those who have become addicted

overcome their additions and once again become productive members of our society.

We will also hear from a former gang member, Mr. Harold Osby, who will explain his association with drugs and the factors which changed his life.

And as I close, please remember that our war on drugs must be a comprehensive battle waged on many fronts. And with that said, let me take a couple of specific points that I would like you to think about as you listen to the testimony today.

One, a huge factor in whether we win or lose our war against drugs is whether we can stop the war at their source, South America. International eradication kills those poisons before they can destroy our kids and our society.

It is easy to get discouraged in our war against drugs. But I believe, working together, we can win this fight. Between 1985 and 1992, the number of addicts went from 5.8 to 1.3 million.

So why should we be optimistic? We know that when we condemn drug use, as we did during the 1980's, rather than condone it, we can reduce the number of addicts, and all it really takes is the courage and persistence to do it.

I would now like to recognize Congressman Rod Blagojevich for his opening statement.

[The prepared statement of Hon. J. Dennis Hastert follows:]

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OPENING REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN J. DENNIS HASTERT

Field Hearing of The Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice

"Report From the Frontline: From South America to South Aurora"

September 22, 1997

First, Let me thank everyone for coming. Drug abuse and international drug trafficking is an issue, as many of you know, that I care deeply about. These drugs undermine society in our communities, contribute to gang violence and destroy young lives. This morning, I hope to discuss the close link between drug violence here, in Aurora and our federal efforts, together with other countries, to stop these drugs where they are grown. I am especially concerned about the cocaine, crack, heroin and marijuana that are getting into our communities. Today, much of our attention will focus on the relationship between cocoa cultivation in Colombia and the sales of cocaine which occur on the street corners of cities and towns in Illinois.

And let me just mention several facts that we cannot ignore. Last year, nearly 20,000 Americans died of drug abuse or drug crime. Heroin use among teens nearly doubled. And we still do not yet properly educate our kids about the dangers inherent in drug use; only one-quarter of our teens say their parents talk to them about drugs.

Hopefully all of you have a map of North America. Let me explain our basic federal model for defeating drugs. First, we championed demand reduction. We passed, for example, the drug free communities act this year, adding up to $100,000 for every community anti-drug coalition in America. Second, we look beyond our borders. We want to stop the cultivation of drug plants in South America. Then, we want to stop the trafficking of those drugs through our borders; this is called interdiction. In addition, drugs which slip through our borders must be discovered by law enforcement. Drugs which are available on the street corners and schools must be rejected by our children and adults, and when our citizens become addicted to drugs, there must be viable alternatives available which give them a chance to beat addiction.

Before we begin, let me add that the vast majority of the cocaine which enters this country -about 80%- originates in Colombia. But our citizens, and our youth , buy it—and that leads to pain both here and there. I don't want to steal anyone's thunder here, but I think you will find it interesting to listen to Mr. Pancho Kinney, Director of Strategic Planning for the ONDCP as he explains the process of cultivation and trafficking. How is the crop cultivated and what are the police in countries like Colombia doing about cultivation?

Another important question is - What can the United States do about cultivation of a crop in a foreign country? I recently went to Colombia to find out for myself what was going on down there. Perhaps importantly, I learned that the Colombians desperately want and need our help to win the escalating war against well-funded drug cartels. We have the honor today of the presence of the ambassador from Colombia, a man whom I call my friend and a man of integrity. He will explain what Colombia is doing to win the war against drugs in Colombia. Then we will hear from some highly informed local witnesses about the impact these drugs are having on our communities,

We will also hear from several members of law enforcement dedicated to rooting out drug traffickers in the streets of the cities in Illinois. These will include: Sergeant Roy Garcia, who is a 23-year police veteran fighting the drug traffickers in the streets of the cities of Illinois and Chief Larry Langston of the Aurora Police Department. Again, I do not want to steal their thunder, but I know they would agree that police alone can not win this fight - they simply don't have the resources to do it alone. We have to educate our kids, and keep the pressure on with our allies, in places like Colombia.

We're also going to hear from a local friend, Ms. Judy Kraemer, President of the Illinois Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) and Dr. Bob Barwa, Principal of East Aurora High School and National President of Operation Snowball. These witnesses will explain the best prevention programs, so that we can protect our children from drugs both in the schools and on our street corners. And we will hear testimony about treatment programs which will help those who have become addicted overcome their addictions and once again become productive members of society.

We will also hear from former gang member, Mr. Harold Osby, who will explain his association with drugs and the factors which changed his life.

In conclusion, let me make a couple of important points that I'd like you to think about as you listen to the testimony today.

1. A huge factor in whether we win or lose our war against drugs is whether we can stop the drugs at their source –South America.

2. It's easy to get discouraged in our war against drugs. But I think it's time to take heart. Between 1985 and 1992 the number of addicts went from 5.8 million to 1.3 million.

So why should we be optimistic? We know that when we condemn drug use (as did during the 80's) rather than condone it (as we have during the 90's), we can reduce the number of addicts. All it takes is courage and persistence.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Thank you, Chairman Hastert. Let me, first of all, again reiterate my gratitude for inviting me to appear here with you and with Congressman Mica. All of us are members of the House Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice.

And as we seek to know more about our Nation's drug problem, I am particularly pleased to be here with you, Chairman Hastert. You have been such a leader on this issue, not only here, back home in your district, but certainly in Washington, DC, and in particular with some of your efforts to help us go down to the actual sources of where the drugs come from to learn more about that, which is clearly a very important part of a comprehensive program to win the war on drugs.

The name of this hearing, "From South America to South Aurora," really tells the story of what Chairman Hastert and our subcommittee have been up to this year. We have made every effort to look at the drug problem, not just from some hearing room in Washington, DC, but from the front lines and from every angle, whether it be in the jungles of South America where we just visited back in May for 7 interesting days in May, or whether it be all the way back here in our communities and our neighborhoods like those here in Aurora.

The bottom line is, there is no easy answer to stopping the flow of drugs. Our Nation is fighting a war that in many ways is as serious as the cold war we fought with the Soviet Union.

This war is going to require an effort on many fronts, as Chairman Hastert mentioned, a comprehensive effort, to make sure that our Nation is doing everything we can to make sure that the shipments of cocaine and marijuana and heroin are stopped before they cross our borders, in conjunction with fighting demand by educating our kids about the dangers of drugs and making treatment available to those who have started to use drugs.

There is no magic solution to this problem. There is no one silver bullet. It is going to take a major effort, a major commitment, not only from Members of Congress and local law enforcement officials and parents and schools, but also our whole community and our country at large.

We have to make the commitment as a country and the realization that this is a serious problem, as serious as any external threat to our security. I think we are on the right track, and it is important for these hearings to continue so that we can continue to learn what the problems are in our communities and fashion solutions that can address those problems.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Congressman Blagojevich.

Now I would like to turn to John Mica, Congressman from Florida, who has certainly been a colleague and has been working with me for several years in this battle. John.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Chairman Hastert.

I want to also pay a special tribute to you for your leadership in the Congress for championing this cause. Most folks don't realize it, but in 1993, the new administration decided on a different policy to put more of the eggs in the war on drugs in the treatment field and some in education, and began a change in policy toward inter-

diction and enforcement. And many people were concerned about this.

In the last Congress, the Speaker of the House appointed Denny the liaison between the leadership and the National Security Subcommittee which we serve, which is really responsible for establishing our national drug policy, at least, from the House of Representatives perspective.

And I will say that he did a masterful job in beginning to shape a multifaceted, multiapproach war on drugs, restarting the war on drugs. And if you come from Aurora or if you come from central Florida, you cannot be blind to the fact that there is indeed a link between source countries and drugs on the street.

So, whether it is source countries we are talking about here today or the streets of our communities, there is a direct linkage. And through Chairman Hastert's leadership, he has brought that to the attention of the Congress; in addition, brought the resources back to that fight on every front. So I salute him.

I come from a very well-to-do suburban central Florida community. Last October, we held a similar hearing in my community after we had experienced record heroin deaths in our teenage population and skyrocketing cocaine deaths. So, we in central Florida and you in the central core of our Nation and these communities such as Aurora are facing the same problems.

We have 70 percent of the crime in our country directly linked to people involved with narcotics use or abuse, and nearly 2 million people crowding our prisons. So, we have a problem across the Nation, and this panel chaired by your Member of Congress is—your chairman is doing an incredible job in helping to reconcentrate our national efforts.

The most important thing we can do here today is hear from your community, Mr. Chairman, and learn how they are approaching the problems that they are facing, and hopefully take this information back to Washington and incorporate it in our national policy.

So I thank you, and I am pleased to participate today.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Congressman Mica, and I really appreciate you and Congressman Blagojevich for joining me here today.

Today we have three distinguished panels appearing before us. First, I am pleased to introduce the Colombian ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Juan Carlos Esguerra. Ambassador, you are certainly welcome, and thank you for coming to be with us today.

And I just would ask you that, again, our hospitality and our welcome is here with you. You have certainly a story, a different story that we don't hear very often to tell. And we certainly welcome your statement, and ask you to proceed.

STATEMENT OF JUAN CARLOS ESGUERRA, COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Ambassador ESGUERRA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Congressmen Blagojevich and Mica, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for having invited me today because I think that panels and meetings like the ones—and forums like the ones you have organized here, and have been organized in different parts of

the country, are very important for the very tough war that is being fought in the world by the good people against drugs, against drug organizations, and against druglords.

I come from Colombia, which is, unfortunately, a country that everybody talks about when they are talking about drugs and when they are talking about the problem with drugs. It is a country which is a little bit larger than the States of California and Texas put together, with a very diverse and a very beautiful, very, very complex geography, crossed by three mountain chains which create all kinds of beauties but all kinds of geographic difficulties.

So people say, and it is true, that Colombia was a country where people just jumped from the mule to the airplane. Our communication systems, our road systems, are very, very underdeveloped. Our infrastructure is very underdeveloped due particularly to the complex and diverse geographical situation.

Colombia has 38 million inhabitants, most of them good people, not crooks, as many people think they are. The vast majority of Colombians are definitely, definitely very good people.

We live mostly from the production of oil, coal, coffee, flowers, bananas, textile, and I am just talking about the main products of Colombia. We were born in 1810, and we are the second oldest democracy in the Western Hemisphere after yours, that is, a democracy, a state governed by the rule of law, of which we are most proud.

For over 20 years, we have been engaged in a very tough and in a most violent war against drugs. First, at the beginning, it was marijuana. Then it was cocaine. And there still is cocaine. And now there is heroin.

It is for a very complex and numerous amount of reasons that, unfortunately, our country was chosen to be a major center for the distribution of drugs, in part due to its strategically located position right in the upper corner of South America, in the northwestern corner of South America; due, in part, to the fact that we are the only South American country having a coast on both the Caribbean, that is, the Atlantic, and the Pacific Ocean; due to the complexity and diversity of our geography, our inland geography; due, in part, to our situation of underdevelopment, the infrastructure, the jungles that there are in part of our country; due, in part, to our poverty and other social circumstances. We were, unfortunately, chosen to be a country for major distribution of drugs.

And they didn't come alone. Something similar to what the Bible says that took place in Egypt, that great trouble with the plagues has taken place in Colombia, only that the plagues were sent to Colombia all at the same time, not just one after the other. And we have been living through that for a long period of time.

It is true, and I have to admit it, that we probably woke up to it a little bit late sometime, that we didn't fully realize what was going on. And when we did realize what was going on, the problem was a major problem. Many of the people who decided to stand up and oppose drugs, drug organizations, druglords, are now dead.

Being true that we woke up a little bit late, because at the beginning everything seemed to be nice, good, we started to see very strange, very rich people around us, people who we had never seen before, people who seemed to have been very poor before and they became rich just like that.

And they started to come to places and buy homes and buy farms for 5 or 6 or 10 times its normal price. We didn't know where they had made their money. We didn't know where they were coming from. But it looked nice, all right. Some of them started to get into work and into politics, and some of them were even elected to Congress at those times. They bought their election to Congress.

They decided to go to places, and they paid people, poor people. They gave them money just for free, in some cases. And they created some sympathy on the part of the poor people for having helped them in many of their needs and satisfied many of the needs that they had.

So, when we started to oppose the drug people and the druglords, in many cases we even had to face the opposition of some people, of some poor people, of how come that you are now trying to prosecute this guy who has only been nice to us, who has only been nice to our community, who has given money to all of us, who has given, in some cases, work or jobs, has provided with jobs to some of our people.

And especially through violence, they started to oppose the complaints and the action on the part of the state. During the last 15 years, we have lost more than 6,000 policemen in Colombia.

There were times, especially in 1989 and 1990, where Pablo Escobar, the very famous druglord, the leader of the Medellin Cartel, used to pay for every policeman killed in the streets of Medellin.

And in less than 6 months during the year of 1989, they managed to kill 400 policemen. He offered to pay $5,000 for every policeman killed, and $20,000 if that policeman would belong to the elite corps that we organized in order to precisely try to pursue and to find and to capture these people.

Then it was the judges, because when we started to prosecute some of them, they immediately started to oppose prosecutors and judges. And they killed them by hundreds. They killed one Minister of Justice, two Attorney Generals in Colombia, half of the Justices of the Supreme Court in 1985, and you name it.

And then there were the journalists, because everybody who would criticize them, who would write an article, an editorial opposing them, was facing the risk of being killed. And some of them were killed.

In 1989 and 1990, they shot and killed four Presidential candidates that were running for President in Colombia just because in their campaign, as part of their campaign, they were opposing drugs, and they were saying that they were going to confront drugs with everything we have.

And then there was blunt terrorism, and they started to put bombs here and there, in malls, in schools, in the middle of the street, in public places, just because they wanted to paralyze the country and to keep the country, for instance, from extraditing them so that they could face the risk of being sent especially to the United States in order to be prosecuted here.

They managed to get the country to include in the constitution a prohibition on extradition, in my opinion as part of that paralyzation. There was a time in Colombia when we were so paralyzed, where most of the people were so paralyzed, all we need is just to

stop this violence, to stop this terrorism, because it is something we cannot live with.

I think that we made at that time a very big mistake. Anyway, we have been fighting them with everything we have, and in the last years, I would say that the last 3, 4, 5 years, we have been the most successful country in the world in doing what we have been doing against these people.

We have managed to change our legislation, because we were not prepared for crimes like this. We were not prepared for wars like this. So, we changed our legislation. We have increased the penalties for the crimes related with drugs, multiplying them by four in some cases, by five in some other cases.

We have passed an asset forfeiture law. We are now in the process of passing an amendment to the constitution that would reimplant the extradition in Colombia. It is not easy. It is not going to be easy.

We still have bad guys that are inserted in different places. Even in Congress, there are a couple bad guys, and in other places, because they have managed through corruption to get some—let's say many of the things that they wanted to get.

We passed a new law on corruption, against corruption, a new law on money laundering. We are probably the only country in the world who is dedicated to air spraying herbicides in order to destroy the plantations of coca, and we have been very successful in that, even though it is very hard.

Unfortunately, another problem that we have had is that in the last years there has been developing an alliance, a terrible alliance, between narcotics traffickers and guerrillas which has allowed the guerrillas to get the financial support that they needed, especially at the end of the cold war and when they stopped receiving aid and help from outside of the country, from Cuba, from Russia, from China, and so forth.

When they stopped receiving that, they needed to get other sources for financing their activities. And so they thought that narcotics trafficking was a good activity in that area. And they have exchanged financial support for military support.

So they have provided the narcotics traffickers with the NTI area fire that they need, so when we now are spraying the cultivation, we are being shot from the ground. And we have lost quite a few planes, quite a few helicopters, and more and more policemen.

We had to put our Armed Forces to be part of it. There are countries who philosophically deny any kind of involvement of the Armed Forces in contradrug activities because they say that they are created, they were created, for something different, and that just the police forces should engage in this war.

In Colombia, that philosophical discussion is simply not possible any more. If we do not put together the police forces and the Armed Forces, we will never make it. We will never make it.

So now, we have a significant part of our 150,000 men, men and women, in the Armed Forces together with the 105,000 policemen that we have in Colombia. It is sad, for instance, to see in Colombia that it is so normal that our policemen do not dress like policemen any more—they dress like soldiers; that they are not armed in the way that policemen are armed; that they don't smile in the way po-

licemen smile all over here, in the States; that they don't act as policemen the way they act here. They are like soldiers, and they have the faces that correspond to soldiers who are in the middle of a war.

But we have absolutely no choice. We have had to take our policemen from the streets, in many cases, to send them to the jungles, where I have to say that we have to thank very much something that we appreciate a lot, and I want to say it publicly: That Congressmen like Chairman Hastert, like Congressman Blagojevich, and formerly Congressman Mica, have taken the time to visit Colombia to see with their own eyes what is taking place down there.

I know how risky it is to accept to go down there. And they didn't go to Bogota for touristic purposes, as people might thought that they went. They were—they visited frontier land, the very front line of the war.

And they saw the coca plantations, and they saw how we air spray, and they saw the things that are taking place, and they saw the rust of what we have in what we call the cemetery of airplanes and helicopters. And they risked their lives going there and expressing the support on the part of the U.S. people and of the United States. And that is very important and very significant for us.

It is tough. Security is very difficult in Colombia. Life is not normal in Colombia. Wives do not know whether their children or their husbands are going to go back home at the end of the journey, especially if they are working in government, especially if they are working on the police forces, especially if they are working in certain ministries, especially if they are in public service, and other cases as well.

But anyway, it is the only country we have, and so we have to keep it. It is the country where our ancestors are buried and where we want to raise our children. So we are going to win this war sooner or later.

It is going to take lots of effort. It is going to take more sacrifices. We are going to have to pay a higher price than the one we have already paid, which is extremely high. But believe me, we are going to make it, and we are going to overcome, for which we need cooperation.

We need to work jointly with countries like yours, with people like yours. We have the same problem, different angles and different sides of the same problem. So we better work together, and jointly the way we have been doing.

There has been a maritime agreement signed between Colombia and the United States by which the United States Coast Guard and the United States Navy are working together with our own navy in the process of trying to chase the speedboats that leave my country with drugs that are aimed to the United States, and we have been very successful. In the last 7 months, we have managed to capture 17 of these boats.

With your help, we installed some radars which complemented the radar net that we have in Colombia. There are some United States radars which were installed in different places of the jungle in Colombia to try to get the planes coming with coca, cocaine paste

from the south, from Bolivia and from Peru, from entering Colombia or from crossing Colombia. And our air force is devoting lots of time, lots of energies, and lots of resources in order to try to keep our air space from being used for these purposes.

We, as I have told you, have lost many lives in this war. But which is more sad, we have lost many souls and consciousness as well. There are quite a number of Colombians who were good people and are not good people any more.

We have to keep that from happening. One of the saddest parts of it all is when one has the opportunity of going to the coca plantations and the jungle and see that the labor work that they are employing nowadays in order to take the leaves out of the coca bushes, which is a very painful and hard handwork to do, is being developed by children, in many cases, by children under 16 because they cannot be prosecuted according to the Colombian law.

So they use these children, who at the beginning, they do not know what they are doing. They do not know why they are doing it. But they get paid for it, and their parents get paid for it. So, there are times when during vacations they are sent to the plantations. We are trying to keep that from happening.

So, we are dedicating lots of efforts to education and TV campaigns all the time, all the time, all the time: Please say "no" to drugs. Please don't work in this type of thing. Yes, you get paid a lot more than you would in any other activity, but it doesn't pay.

So, it is not easy. But we are doing it. We are doing it very hard, and sincerely we do need to develop more activities. We do need to be more successful, luckier sometimes. But there is one thing that I see which I have not seen all the time, and that is the commitment of a nation in this war, to this war.

We probably were not fully committed before, not all of us. Now it is clear that the vast majority of Colombians really, really do understand the significance of all this and are committed as a nation in order to defeat it.

But we have to defeat it through the rule of law, respecting at all times principles and values which are very important, those of democracy, presumption of innocence, due process, values and principles that sometimes we complain against them because due to them sometimes, the criminals hide behind due process, hide—manage to hide behind presumption of innocence, you know.

And so, we know about it, too, and we suffer for it. But anyway, we cannot be renegades of principles and values which have been the support for the construction of our country. So, I sincerely do hope that in the near future, whenever I go to places and I talk about Colombia or hear about Colombia, it is not in regard with drugs, but simply, again, with the smile that I used to see on everybody's face when they were saying, so you come from the land of Juan Valdez.

Yes; that is the land, the only land from which I want to come, and not from the land from which many drugs do come to this country. But believe me, we are trying our best to stop that from happening.

Thank you very much, and I apologize for having talked so long, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HASTERT. Well, thank you, Mr. Ambassador. We certainly appreciate your candidness and heartfelt testimony today.

One of the things I wanted to ask, you talk about the cartels that used to dominate the drug manufacturing and trade from Colombia. They would bring the coca paste in from Peru, in from Bolivia, and a small amount of it was grown in Colombia.

That has changed now, and according to your testimony and what you said, that the organizations we used to call the grow organizations that used to be philosophical organizations—they used to be leftist fronts or arms of the Communist party and stuff, now they have pretty much turned not philosophical any more, but they really are narco guerrillas.

How much money, say, the FLN organization or ELN, but probably FLN more than any, how much money can they bring in a month by doing narco trafficking and protecting the cartels? Estimated, I would guess.

Ambassador ESGUERRA. I will say that quite a number of billions of dollars a year. They are getting very well paid for the support that they are providing to take care of the clandestine airfields, to take care of the plantations, to shoot at the airplanes that are trying to air spray the plantations.

They get paid for the protection that they provide to the laboratories that are hidden in the middle of the jungle, and, of course, they get paid for the kidnapping that they organized which is related with narco trafficking as well.

So unfortunately, at the times we are living, our guerrillas are as rich as they have ever been. I mean, they are incredibly wealthy and incredibly rich.

Mr. HASTERT. So, you know, if you bring in billions of dollars a year, literally hundreds of millions of dollars a month, then you can buy the best weapons and the best technology, radars, and everything else.

So your ability to fight a war within a war for those folks, they have the money to have the best weapons and actually recruit more people. Is that the problem?

Ambassador ESGUERRA. Unfortunately, yes. There are cases when we see that the airplanes that they use, that the weapons that they use, in order to carry on their activities are by far better and more modern than those we use.

And so, the bad guys are better armed than the good guys. And we don't have—we lack the resources necessary to oppose all of that. There are cases, for instance, when a peasant complains that he was taken away—one of his sons was recruited by force, through violence, to be a member of the guerrilla group, and they pay him a lot more than they pay the other son who was drafted and is in the military. And so, there are cases that we see all that.

So the difference in resources is enormous.

Mr. HASTERT. So, actually, when we look at the money that the narco guerrillas use actually comes from our street corners and our cities here in the United States and comes back to Colombia and is actually used to recruit people and to buy new weapons, and that is where that money comes from. Is that right?

Ambassador ESGUERRA. According to the studies that we have made and the investigations and research that we have devoted

ourselves to, we know that a significant portion of the resources of the guerrillas do come from activities related with narcotics trafficking. And, of course, that is the case with all the organizations who are narcotics trafficking.

And as you were mentioning before, the Cali Cartel, as such, does not exist any more. The Medellin Cartel, as such, does not exist any more. But most, if not all, of their leaders, their kingpins, were either killed or put in prison, where they are.

And so what we have now are some other minicartels, but especially organizations that are very closely tied with the guerrillas when they are not the very guerrillas group that are—they themselves are cultivating or transporting or processing, not exporting.

So now the exports outside of Colombia is still carried on by professional organizations and Mafias.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

Mr. Blagojevich.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Can you, Mr. Ambassador, briefly just tell us how it was that the cartels—how the Colombian Government was able to start winning the war with the cartels, the Pablo Escobar Cartel and so forth, the Medellin Cartel, and explain what the strategy was with regard to that and what some of the methods you used were that were so successful?

Ambassador ESGUERRA. I think it was a combination of factors: political will, decision, and the devotion of resources and the preparation of resources and the sacrifice on the part of many people and particularly the police forces.

First, it was the Medellin Cartel, which was a cartel that used to employ violence and terrorism as the most important of its tools in order to develop the activities that they developed. And so we had to move all our forces in order to be able to capture these people, and we managed to do it.

I would say that the crucial point in the war against the Medellin Cartel was when Pablo Escobar was killed in a police operation in December, December 2, 1993. That was the turning point of the war against—of the battle against the Medellin Cartel.

Then starting in 1994, but especially at the very end of 1994, we initiated the war against the Cali Cartel. It took us time because the Cali Cartel, since it had not employed terrorism the way the Medellin Cartel had, they had used more sophisticated and more euphemistic ways of acting.

So they had lots of support from different organizations. They had investments in soccer teams, so people loved the way their soccer teams were doing because they were able to buy and get the services of the best players and all that.

And they were financing some campaigns, in some cases openly and in some cases not so openly, of different people in the local communities and then in the regional communities and then even in the national organization.

And they had—they, for instance, hired taxi drivers in Cali. And so they had organized an intelligence group composed by many taxi drivers who had to say who had arrived to the airport in Cali, who had arrived to that hotel or this hotel in Cali.

And they would—they didn't know that they were part of such a big organization. They just knew that when they gave—provided

somebody with some information that for them was everyday information, they got paid for it. And that happened in different stages.

They used to finance schools, universities, and some opportunities. And so they were organizing forums in order to oppose extradition and this and that. So they even went into academics, and they were financing academics.

But—and they had an organization which was a very clever organization, very difficult to find. But fortunately, in a short period of time that was between the end of 1994 and the end of 1995, we managed to capture all of the members of the Cali Cartel except one, whom we captured a year later, and another one who was captured some months ago.

But it took time. It took effort. And it took lots of resources, and the help and the cooperation on the part of U.S. organizations. The DEA and the CIA were instrumental in trying to get into the intelligence of these organizations so that we could establish where they were hiding, how they were hiding, how they were carrying their operations, and so forth.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

Congressman Mica.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador, as you know, there are certain restrictions on use of U.S. funds, particularly when they are given to another nation in combating a certain type of activities.

One of the problems we have had is that Department of State and the administration have been reluctant to give military equipment or law enforcement equipment to your nation in the war on drugs because of possible human rights abuses or use of this equipment against some who may not be involved in narcotics trafficking.

What assurances do we have that the Government of Colombia would comply with the proper use of this assistance if given by the United States?

Ambassador ESGUERRA. Yes, sir. We signed an agreement with the United States very short ago that is an end use monitor agreement which, in my opinion, shows that we are as committed as one can be to the protection of human rights, and which shows something that is absolutely clear.

And I would like to state it in a most clear way: The Colombia Government, the Colombian authorities, are committed to human rights. It is our concern. There is absolutely—there has never been any kind of policy on the part of the state, on the part of the authorities as such, that would involve or imply any violation of human rights.

Of course, unfortunately and in a most sad way, in Colombia there are violations of human rights that take place every day. And that is just because of the fact that we are at war, and that we are at war against guerrillas, against narcotics trafficking, against common delinquency.

The vast majority of said violations are the responsibility either of the guerrillas or of the narcotics traffickers' organizations. That is perfectly clear, though there have been certain occasions, certain moments, in which individually and in an isolated way some member of our armed forces has been involved in such violation, in

which case, when we get the proper denunciation and accusation, we immediately prosecute and judge that person and we dismiss that person from the unit where he is working.

There are other violations of human rights that take place due to the fact that in some—especially in some parts of Colombia, some people, some especially foreigners, have decided to provide for their own security and provide for their own safety and for their own protection and for their own justice, and so they have hired quite a number of people to confront the guerrillas and to confront the narcotics traffickers.

And that has created a very complicated problem. Of course, those groups are not backed, are not supported, are not tolerated, and do not have even the sympathy on the part of the state. But there have been cases where they have gotten the sympathy on the part of a particular commander in a particular area, and we are trying to keep that from happening.

But we are as committed as one can be. And another thing that is clear is that if one compares figures and numbers, it is evident that the violations of human rights that have involved individual members of our Armed Forces have decreased significantly during the last years so that, let's say, in the last 2 or 3 years, there has not been any that is a big issue.

There have probably been a few very, very isolated and very insignificant cases. And we are committed to that as well. so——

Mr. MICA. Thank you. Ambassador, one final question: When I was there a year ago, and we have had reports since, that rather than just Colombia being a production center for cocaine and distribution, it is now turning into a supply source for actual growing and production of poppies and heroin.

What is the current situation, and what do you see that situation affecting, say, communities like Aurora or in central Florida where I live and other parts of this country? Is this still a problem?

Ambassador ESGUERRA. Yes, sir. It is still a problem. It is still a very delicate problem. I have to say, though, that according to the information and the evidence that we have been provided by you that comes from satellites, the extension of the poppy plantations in Colombia is, by far, a lot lower than you and I thought it would be, and that it is—I am talking about last year, which is the figures that I remember. It was just 6,000 hectares that were devoted to that.

We have been air spraying that with herbicide as well, and we have been very successful. So I don't think that nowadays they would be more than half of it.

The other problem with poppy is that it is usually planted and cultivated in the most difficult to reach of the regions of the country, and that is because the poppy plantations require lots of water, and they require lots of fresh and pure water.

And so they are planted high up in the mountains. Usually they start around 6,000 to 7,000 feet, and they go higher in the complicated curves of our geography and our mountain chains, so that to air spray them is very difficult.

For instance, the helicopters that traditionally we have been—our police have been provided and the ones that we have been able to buy and acquire from the United States were normally Huey

helicopters, Vietnam veteran helicopters, that are very good for the coca plantations, which are located in the lower lands, in the jungle.

But they are no good in order to be able to go up in the mountains to where the poppy plantations are. So in most of the cases, when we are air spraying the poppy plantations, we have to send the planes without any kind of escort. And that is a major problem because the helicopters simply are not able to make it up there.

So we are using for escort purposes some of the Blackhawk helicopters that we have in the air force, but they are very few, and so we have to multiply their action so that they work there and they at the same time work in the purposes of carrying on the war against guerrillas.

So we do not have the equipment that we really do need in order to be able to finish the process that we are into in terms of destroying the poppy plantations.

Mr. MICA. Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Ambassador, I want to thank you very much for being with us today. And your time is very important and you are a busy man. Thank you for coming from Washington to spend some time to really kind of enlighten us on the problems that—we think the drug problems just impact us. We don't realize how it impacts your nation as well.

We appreciate, certainly, the work and cooperation that we have been able to do and share together. Appreciate your being here today, and have a good trip back to Washington. Thank you very much.

Ambassador ESGUERRA. All right. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Congressman, thank you for the invitation, and you don't have to thank me for anything. If you accepted our invitation to go to Colombia and you were—you risked your life by going to frontier land, I don't see why I should not come and enjoy myself up here in Aurora, IL. So I thank you very much.

And I apologize for my English because sometimes I suffer a lot. I manage to say what I want to say, but not the way I want to say it. I would like to have been more able to express what we are really doing and what we suffer about this. But thank you very much for the attention and for the invitation.

Mr. HASTERT. I think your English is much better than our Spanish. Thank you.

I would like to welcome our second panel. And first we have Lt. Col. Francis "Pancho" Kinney, who is the director of strategic planning for the Office of the National Drug Control Policy. In more simple language, he works with the drug czar to plan our national policy on drugs.

Second, I welcome Mr. Harold Osby, a former gang member, and next Mr. Mike Murphy, who is executive director of the Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation, and Mr. Juventino Cano, president of the Aurora Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Bob Barwa, principal of East Aurora High School and the national president of Operation Snowball.

And finally on this panel is Ms. Judy Kreamer, who is the president of the Illinois Drug Education Alliance. And I would thank you all for coming today.

In accordance with committee policy, I will ask to swear you in. So as you all come up, would you please stand and raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

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

Please be seated. I think there are enough chairs there. If not, we will pull up a couple more.

I would like to start with Lieutenant Colonel Kinney. And colonel, would you please proceed with your opening statement.

STATEMENTS OF LT. COL. FRANCIS "PANCHO" KINNEY, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING, OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY; HAROLD OSBY, FORMER GANG MEMBER; JUVENTINO CANO, PRESIDENT, AURORA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; MIKE MURPHY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRAYER COALITION FOR RECONCILIATION; BOB BARWA, PRINCIPAL, EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL AND NATIONAL PRESIDENT, OPERATION SNOWBALL; AND JUDY KREAMER, PRESIDENT, ILLINOIS DRUG EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. Yes. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Representative Mica, and Representative Blagojevich.

I am just delighted to be here and represent Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, who is known as the drug czar, as you pointed out.

The three gentlemen here from the subcommittee all share a concern for our communities and our children and an absolute commitment to helping to find solutions to the Nation's drug problem.

I would be remiss if I just didn't say a couple of words about what Chairman Hastert brings to the effort here. He is a national leader who led the fight for the Hastert-Portman bill, known as the Drug-Free Communities Act, which will help provide essential seed moneys to community coalitions.

He is one of the few in Congress who has taken great risk to see the on-the-ground truth in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and other source countries. He brings a laser-like focus to programs to see what works and what doesn't work.

And he understands the linkage between foreign and domestic components of the Nation's drug problem, particularly the links that bring these drugs from source countries and the problems that you see in your own communities and cities and streets. He is one of those rare leaders who is committed to finding bipartisan solutions to the drug problem. And we appreciate that.

He is the cochair, as you know, of the bipartisan drug policy working group, which underscores that commitment. He also chairs the National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, so he knows something about the relationship among crimes, drugs, and gangs. He knows that at the center of all these problems we will find illegal drugs.

I, too, work for an extraordinary man, an American hero, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, a man who has four Purple Hearts and multiple

combat tours in Vietnam and the Gulf war. At the time that the President asked him early last year to take on this new job, he was the youngest four-star General in the Army, a man with still a bright future ahead of him.

He was down in Panama commanding United States Southern Command forces. And we were busy down there supporting United States interdiction efforts, not only in Central America and the Caribbean, but also our source country interdiction efforts in Peru, Bolivia, and elsewhere, in Colombia and in South America.

This was a man who just a couple of short years ago led the famed left hook attack that went across into the Euphrates Valley in Iraq and isolated the Republican Guards in record time with minimum casualties.

But he gave up a promising military career because he saw that there was a new threat, a national security threat of just incredible proportions and dimensions, that was threatening our 68 million young Americans under the age of 18. And he has been hard at work on this new challenge, so hard, in fact, that he has received two death threats in the last couple of months.

And Mr. Chairman, I think that in our business, taking personal risk is something that you have got to accept. And one measure of success is when other people start getting a little bit upset about what you are doing and start thinking about other ways of dealing with your success. The more you hurt them, the more desperate and dangerous they get.

And, Mr. Chairman, he is just delighted to consider you both a friend and a mentor and also a partner.

Let me say just a little bit now about the drug problem, if I could. And if you would allow me, I don't know all the dynamics of your district and this community and this city, but if Aurora and Mr. Hastert's district are representative of America, here is what the drug problem might look like.

There might be some 5,000 addicts. That just represents a straight-line division of the million plus hardcore chronic drug users in the Nation. There might also be some 35,000 people who are casual drug users. Together, they would consume more than 1 metric ton of cocaine and even greater quantities of marijuana.

Fifty percent of your graduating seniors would have used or experimented with an illegal drug by the time that they finish high school. Half of them would have done so in the eighth and the ninth grade.

Collectively, these drug users would spend $100-plus million a year on illegal drugs. That is a lot of money to be spending. And it would cost your communities probably about $150 million.

You would probably have about 2,500 or more drug-related arrests, and I am sure that the law enforcement officers that are present could attest to that personally. There might be some 50 dead a year. And as Mr. Mica can tell you, his community in central Florida in Orlando has had just too many heroin-related deaths in recent years. And too many of those 50 casualties and too many of those drug-related arrests and too many of those drug users would be our young.

So what are we doing about it? I guess that is what I should focus on, Mr. Chairman. No. 1, we believe that we have got a pret-

ty comprehensive strategy at the national level to help the efforts of more than 4,000 community coalitions, parents, and teachers, of leaders everywhere.

I have given you a summary of this strategy that is placed outside, just a short summary that goes ahead and outlines the problem as we see it and a little bit of detail on what we are trying to do about it.

Our strategy has five goals, but essentially it says that you have got to do it all. You have got to play offense and defense full time. You can't have the offense on the field part of the time and then punt the ball and go on defense. You have got to do it full time.

Our absolute priority is prevention. We believe that the best way of solving a drug problem is to prevent new generations of drug users from moving on and joining the ranks of the chronically addicted and, unfortunately, joining the ranks of those fallen prey and perhaps even died or seen their lives completely ruined by drugs.

We are also focusing on addressing the health and social consequences of drug use, focusing on reducing the crime-related consequences, the criminal cost of drug use, that sees more than a million Americans arrested each year and untold damage to our different communities and our quality of life.

We are also organizing better the effort to protect our borders, whether it is in south Florida, the Southwest Border, or our international airports like O'Hare or in Orlando or in San Juan, PR, against the drug threat.

We are also going after the drugs at the source, both in South America and also here in the United States. We are a major drug-producing nation ourselves. Marijuana, methamphetamines, designer drugs, you name it: American ingenuity, unfortunately, is at its worst when it comes to exploring new substances to abuse.

We are also focusing on reinforcing community efforts. We understand that the heavy lifting has got to be done at the local level. Community policing, drug programs, community coalitions, prevention programs—I am delighted to see a D.A.R.E. officer here. Sir, thank you very much. The local effort has got to be at the center of this problem to find the solutions.

We have also got to do a better job of executing our Federal responsibilities. We just can't be flat-footed and wait for the drug dealers and the drug traffickers to show up at our borders or at our airports.

If I could give you an example of the nature of the challenge that we face, if we focus on the Southwest Border, for example, there are more than 3.5 million trucks a year coming across our Southwest Border. Our Federal agencies last year inspected 900,000 of them. You would say, well, that is not bad, 1 in 3 or 1 in 4. Well, what is bad is, they only found drugs on 56 of them. That is not so good.

We just can't wait for these trucks to show up. We have got to develop a comprehensive intelligence architecture that allows us to follow drugs from the source to the streets, allows us to penetrate drug trafficking organizations, both foreign and domestic, lets us understand what the nature of the problem is so that we can give timely information, actionable intelligence, to our local police

forces, to our State organizations, to our national effort, all across the board, so that we can go after these people and not just happen to find them because a dog found them.

If you look at the example of our different Federal agencies on the Southwest Border, I could name two Federal agencies and give you a test and say: "which of these two Federal agencies caught the most drugs, canine dogs or these two Federal agencies?" And you would be surprised to hear that it was the dogs that found them.

I am glad the dogs are finding them, but it should be the Federal agencies, through an intelligence-oriented effort. And Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mica, and sir, your assistance is much appreciated in allowing us to better put together the Federal effort to protect our borders.

Another thing that we have got to do is that we have got to follow the money. Drug dealers are in the business because there's great quantities of money to be made. Americans spend $50 billion a year on illegal drugs, about $30 billion a year in cocaine.

We have got to do a better job of preventing money laundering. I would cite the example of the effort in Washington Heights, NY, where the average family income was just $30,000 a year, yet the average remission, the amounts of money that these families were sending back to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico and other places was about an average of $25,000 per family.

Now, it is pretty expensive to live in Manhattan. You don't do it on $5,000 a family. There was a lot of drug dealing going on up there. And we put into effect some geographic tasking orders and some other measures to cut down on the transmission of money from New York City to these source countries.

We have also got to continue supporting committed partners abroad, whether it is Ambassador Esguerra and other committed Colombians such as Police Commander General Serrano, or whether it is in Peru or even in Mexico. We have got to support the efforts of our allies who have shown the political will, the commitment, and the personal bravery to stand up and root out drug trafficking.

An example of a successful program is the air bridge—the interdiction campaign that General McCaffrey helped put together. It had actually been started by his predecessor, General Joulwan.

But we believe that multinational effort to interdict small aircraft flying about 500 pounds or 500 kilos of cocaine from Peru over the Andes Mountains into Colombia for further processing, that the successful international effort to interdict that air bridge, directly contributed to an 18-percent reduction in coca cultivation in Peru in 1995 and 1996.

If you go after drug producing and you cut the profits out of any link in the chain, then you will be successful. That is what that air bridge demonstrated.

We have also got to continue opposing efforts to legalize drugs. You will see people talking about industrial hemp. Hemp is not really a commercially viable crop. In fact, the plant looks just like a marijuana plant. It is a marijuana plant.

You will see people advocating for medical marijuana. I am a compassionate person; I am sure the chairman and everybody else in here is all for allowing seriously ill Americans to have best ac-

cess to medicines that work. And quite frankly, the medical marijuana argument is a red herring, playing on compassion to support the legalization of drugs.

We are also opposed to what is known as the harm reduction arguments, those arguing that what we need to do is minimize the consequences of the drug war, focus on minimizing pain. It is really another front for drug legalization.

I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that you want a needle park here in your city of Aurora, nor do I think that you want cannabis bar clubs or marijuana coffeehouses like they have in Amsterdam in your communities here. That is what we are opposing.

But at the same time, we recognize that this is a tremendously organized effort. If you go on the Internet, for example, you will see a complete organization of the drug legalization effort.

Just yesterday, I think it was, Mr. Mica pointed out that there were 50,000 people smoking pot on Boston Commons. There is a lot of organizations behind it, a lot of support for these positions. But we are absolutely committed to opposing them because we believe that as a society will use drugs, so will their children.

Finally, I would like to sum it up by saying that that is why I am absolutely encouraged to be here, to see the commitment that you bring to bear against this drug problem here in Illinois.

The example of Mayor Daley, who brought together the National Conference of Mayors in Washington this summer to announce their own national drug strategy. The representative—are you up here, ma'am—from the Illinois Drug Education Alliance, that brings 15 years of focus on prevention.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mica, Mr. Blagojevich, General McCaffrey and all of us at the Office of National Drug Control Policy thank you for your commitment and support, and we look forward to supporting your efforts to protect your communities.

With your permission—I could show it now or we could leave it and show it later—I have a video that shows a couple of public service announcements by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America that just underscore how important it is for us to focus on protecting our children and for parents, teachers, and community leaders and everybody to step in.

Mr. HASTERT. These are the announcements that we are working together to try to develop?

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTERT. They only would be a couple minutes. Right?

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTERT. Yes. Let's see them.

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. Could we please show the videos, then?

[Videotapes played.]

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Kinney. And I imagine that we will be seeing more of that this year on TV.

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. We hope that is the case.

Mr. HASTERT. All right. Thank you very much.

Next I would like to introduce a unique young man, Mr. Harold Osby. I think he will tell you his own story.

Mr. Osby, please proceed.

Mr. OSBY. Thanks a lot, Congressman.

I am a former gang member of Aurora, IL. As short as I can, I would like to talk about a little bit of my past and what I am doing now.

I was chief of security, third in command, Imperial Insane Vice Lords. I have probably hurt, probably, more people than are sitting here today in my lifetime.

I have been shot. I have been stabbed. A quick example of how I have hurt people: A good friend of mine, I stabbed him three different times, once because he wouldn't get off the phone. I wasn't a killer, though. I will say that.

I tried to get out of the gang, and they tried to kill me three different times. When their attempts failed, they set me up on two counts of first degree murder, which I fought in King County for 9 months. I lost my wife and my daughter in there. They couldn't see me incarcerated any longer.

On March 22, I was acquitted. God had answered some prayers for my family. I tried to somewhat live my life for God when I was locked up. I got out, thought I was going to be able to do it. It was harder than I thought.

When a family member of mine had got in some trouble with some drug dealers and he owed them close to $30,000—he had taken off—he says it was $30,000; they say it was more—he had taken off. They couldn't get up with him, so they decided to come after my family, making threats toward me and other family members. So I found myself taking on my relative's debt.

February 3 of this year, 1997, Michael O'Gara, a friend of mine, was killed. I was struggling with the fact of dealing drugs and losing my friend. I didn't know what to do. I attended a public prayer vigil with Michael Murphy, Chaplain Murphy here, and looked for some kind of help.

We started a ministry a couple weeks later called Disciples of Christ, which is a street ministry. Since then, under his mentorship and being in Disciples of Christ, I have turned my life around. Chaplain Murphy and I have taken to the streets, and continue to do so. The goal of the ministry is to help gang members come out of gangs and to offer them a lifestyle that honors God. Basically, that is what we will be doing.

I recently, through George Adamson, Chaplain George Adamson for the Illinois Department of Corrections—he is administrative aide to the chief chaplain—I was made a volunteer chaplain, parole chaplain, for the Illinois Department of Corrections.

And Chaplain Murphy and Chaplain George and myself, we will just continue to take to the streets and help kids come out of the gangs of Aurora. I was an example of a world that doesn't care. I am an example of a God and the godly men that do.

I only ask that you ask yourself as individuals, where do you stand? Do you believe that God can make a difference through godly, caring people, and these people who are willing to look through—look beyond the sin and just love the sinner. And that is all.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Osby follows:]

Congressional Hearing / Insa
Harold Osby) Chaplain Murphy

GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS HAROLD OSBY.

I AM A FORMER GANG MEMBER OF AURORA. AS SHORT AS I CAN. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SMALL PART OF MY GANG PAST. I WAS CHIEF OF SECURITY . THIRD IN COMMAND. OF THE IMPERIAL INSANE VICE LORDS. I HAVE PROBABLY HURT MORE PEOPLE THAN ARE HERE TODAY.

I HAVE BEEN SHOT A FEW TIMES AND STABBED TWICE. I ONCE STABBED A GOOD FRIEND THREE DIFFERENT TIMES; ONCE JUST BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T GET OFF THE PHONE. TO SAY I WASN'T A NICE GUY IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. BUT A KILLER I WAS NOT. WHEN I TRIED TO GET OUT OF THE GANG. MY OWN SO CALLED FRIENDS. TRIED TO KILL ME .

WHEN THEIR THREE ATTEMPTS FAILED .THEY SET ME UP TO TAKE THE FALL ON A MURDER. OF WHICH I WAITED FOR TRIAL PROCEEDING TO CONCLUDE FOR NINE MONTHS . I SAT IN KANE COUNTY JAIL FIGHTING TWO COUNTS OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER. INSIDE I TRIED TO TURN MY LIFE OVER TO GOD. I LOST MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER WHEN THEY COULDN'T GO THROUGH SEEING ME INCARCERATED ANY LONGER.

ON MARCH 22ND. 1996 . GOD ANSWERED MY PRAYERS. AND I WAS ACQUITTED ON BOTH COUNTS OF MURDER.

WHEN I GOT OUT I LEARNED LIVING FOR GOD WAS HARDER. I GOT CUSTODY OF MY DAUGHTER AND WAS DOING GOOD. UNTIL A FAMILY MEMBER GOT IN TROUBLE WITH SOME DRUG DEALERS TO THE TUNE OF 30,000 DOLLARS. BEING THEY COULDN'T FIND HIM I GOT CAUGHT UP IN DEALING FOR THEM ON BEHALF OF MY RELATIVES' DEBT.

FEB.3. 1997. MICHAEL O'GARA. A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE WAS KILLED.

FIGHTING WITH DEALING DRUGS AND HIS DEATH I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. AT MIKES' PUBLIC PRAYER VIGIL I TALKED TO CHAPLAIN MURPHY. WE MET A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER .AND STARTED "DISCIPLES OF CHRIST." UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF CHAPLAIN MURPHY AND "DISCIPLES OF CHRIST". I HAVE TURNED MY LIFE AROUND.

CHAPLAIN MURPHY AND I HAVE TAKEN TO THE STREETS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

RECENTLY. THROUGH CHAPLAIN GEORGE ADAMSON. I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED A VOLUNTEER PAROLE CHAPLAIN FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.

TOGETHER CHAPLAIN MURPHY . CHAPLAIN ADAMSON. AND I. WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR GOD IN THIS MINISTRY.

I WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A WORLD THAT DOESN'T CARE. I AM NOW AN EXAMPLE FOR GOD AND GODLY MEN. WHO LOVE AND CARE FOR PEOPLE IN PLIGHT AND MY BACKGROUND.

I ONLY ASK YOU TO ASK YOURSELF WHERE DO YOU AS INDIVIDUALS STAND ? DO BELIEVE GOD CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CARING GODLY PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO LOOK BEYOND THE SIN & LOVE THE SINNER.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much.

Rev. Murphy, please proceed with your statement.

Rev. MURPHY. Good morning. Thanks for having me here. I appreciate it.

My name is Chaplain Michael Murphy, and I served as a senior chaplain for the Aurora Police Department from April 17, 1994, to August 15, 1997. I am presently the executive director of the Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation, which serves the direct needs of some of those most traumatized by violence here in Aurora, especially families, survivors, of homicides.

As the director of the coalition, I facilitate an after-care advocacy group called Families and Friends of Murder Victims. Over 40 families periodically attend, and ages range from 2 months old to 60 years of age.

I also facilitate community response teams that deliver bilingual and bicultural, nonbrokered, pastoral public and social services to the living rooms of the survivors.

I also facilitate a holistic relational intervention program, of which you just heard Mr. Osby speak of, for active and former gang members of the streets of Aurora. Each screened individual enters into a covenant agreement—not a contractual agreement—with their mentors, who work with them for employment, value clarifications, spiritual and emotional development, child care, tutoring toward GED, restitution to society—that is, if they have any active 99's on the street of Aurora, we ask that they work with us to turn themselves in, which has happened.

And we also offer family, marital, and chemical dependency counseling to these individuals. And we provide a peer gang ministry, which works with former gang members who work with active gang members; and relocations for what we call SOS, that is shoot on sight, individuals here in Aurora.

Finally, I provide unanticipated death notifications and public vigils at all homicide sites.

My brief synopsis of Aurora encompasses some of the things that were mentioned here at a local level as well, and probably more so on a local level. As of January 1, 1990, through September 16, 1997, there have been 141 homicides in Aurora, and 114 have been people of color. Those who say bullets are colorblind are issue blind.

Demographically, a resounding majority of our homicides occur in narrow cells and pockets of our city where poverty and hopelessness abounds and opportunity is for someone down the block or around the corner.

Aurora remains a monolinguistic society, making entry level, minimum skill positions difficult to impossible to obtain. A lack of economic opportunity for the marginalized is the fundamental social sin of this community.

Some no longer believe that hard work can get your family ahead. There is no corporate ladder for some to climb. In fact, if our minority community needed a ladder, it would be for the hole that we have dug them to get out of, through years of blaming the victim and being insensitive to the root causes of violence.

May I stop just to share a short story just this week of a young man that we are working with in our mentor program, who was

kidnapped at gunpoint by five men on the streets of Aurora and asked to pay his debt, his historical debt, for his drug dealings, after nearly 2 months of not selling drugs and being in our program. His choices were to live or to die. One must wonder, when he pays his debt off, what worth he is to this cartel.

Some may speak to the economic boom of Aurora, which has not and will not be in these pockets of poverty due to developers' insistence on developing away from these troubled areas. Zoning and density are the scapegoats of government when it comes to sharing the power and wealth of opportunity that exists here. The only boom the "hood" hears is the crackle of gunfire.

Aurora and many of its surrounding white-collar communities have a thirst for drugs. Drugs are the profit, and gangs are the profiteers. Where there are drugs, there is money. Where there is money, there are guns. Where there are guns, there is power. Where there is drugs, money, guns, and power, there is death.

It is no small wonder that a gang called Serrano 13 has come up through Mexico, through south central Los Angeles, and now resides for the past 36 months in the city of Aurora. I am working intimately with at least two widows of those gang members.

Why are they here? They are here because the largest amount of Hispanic men or boys between the ages of 9 and 15 live in the Midwest. They are calculated, and exist in numbers up to 55, according to our private pastoral intelligence that we receive.

But the first death of this city is spiritual and social. We don't have a gang problem; we have a social problem, and gangs are the symptomology. We spend millions of dollars in this city toward the symptom and we call that ensuring the public safety.

Office-based social service programs continue to get patronized and controlled by the dominant culture and municipal government, which by standards of qualitative assessment—and I am saying qualitative assessment based on immersion and a ministry of presence—have the least amount of rapport with the gang community that they are trying to reach.

It reminds me many years ago of the Honorable Jane Byrne, who as the mayor of Chicago lived a day in a project in order to get the feeling of what it might be like. We don't need 1-day visits to the projects. We need immersion.

In the short time that I spent in Guatemala, I learned that the leaders were put to the forefront of leadership based on immersion. Then came advocacy. One did not win positions of leadership based on elections, but they won by being in the heart of the struggle.

We throw Caucasian programs at the minority community, and we scratch our heads in disillusionment in the city of Aurora as our homicide record peaked in 1996. Programs don't change people. People change people.

What I am saying to you specifically, without sounding philosophical, is we need an indigenous voice of those who are most affected by violence to speak for our community as to what they feel the results are—what they feel, I should say, the recommendations are—as to what would change the violence in their areas.

Many gangs rule by fear. But I have experienced living examples, that sit to the right of me, that love and respect are the dominant forces of all cultures. If this is offered to our gang community from

asphalts and curbs and not leather swivel chairs, our city has a fighting chance.

We need an itinerant, non-office-based approach to reaching those most affected by violence. Gang members do respond to a holistic approach toward internal change, and the champions and the heroes of this approach and movement are those who are in this struggle that I defined earlier.

The social services we offer in this city are fantastic. Some simply lack the linkage and minority representation to get the job done. Latinos and African-Americans in this struggle don't want the government to work for them; they want it to work with them. The minority community wants some sense of self-determination and not government infringement in managing their social and their pastoral concerns.

As the director of the Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation, that is what we are about. The coalition will continue to utilize the services of those, as one former gang member recently put it, are "the people who others reach over and lock their car doors when they see us."

We will utilize survivors to reach survivors. We will utilize former gang members to reach former gang members and active gang members. We will utilize impoverished neighborhoods to reach their brothers and sisters with the message of perseverance, advocacy, and hope.

The biggest error in this city is that there is a good guy and that there is a bad guy. The good guy keeps the civil law and the bad guy breaks it. In the secular world, we hire people to catch the bad guy and we imprison them, as one gang member put it, to become society's garbage.

In the spiritual world, God said all fall short of the glory of God, and we are saved by grace. And therefore, from a pastoral perspective, all of us are redeemable. And therefore there is no lost cause.

This young man would be thought of as a lost cause. He stands today before you truly rehabilitated, truly able to reach back into the communities most affected by violence with the greatest amount of possibility of making a difference.

The Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation and other pastoral organizations are not just a spiritual option. We are a social solution that is excluded in almost every failing government plan that is in existence against violence in this country.

Aurora will change when those least affected by violent crime decide, perhaps by providential insight, that their brothers and sisters are dying. Everyone in this city has lost a child, figuratively. They just don't know it yet.

We don't need more changes of address. We need more changes of heart and less white flight. Some can shoot and run; we must stand and fight. There is no land of Oz to go to to avoid these problems, and abandoning our brothers and sisters in plight leads to further racial and economic polarization.

I truly believe in my heart of hearts that one of the answers, and not the answer, is the pastoral community. While in Guatemala, the enemy of the people was the pastoral community. Those most assassinated and killed were pastors.

They taught them the simple things: to read, to write, how to plant, how to sow, and how to reap. I sat in a room of a martyred priest by the name of Father Stanley Rother who was killed simply for teaching the Mayan Indians how to read and write.

I know now as a pastor in this community that the true enemies of the people will be those who make a difference. We have already heard that some are willing to immerse themselves by taking flights to Colombia, willing to immerse themselves by attacking these issues.

We need more of that in this city. I believe when that day comes, violence will be diminished, perhaps even eradicated. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Reverend Murphy follows:]

Congressional Hearing / IMSA
Chaplain Murphy / Harold Osby

GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL T. MURPHY. I SERVED AS A SR. CHAPLAIN FOR THE AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM APRIL 17, 1994 TO AUGUST 15, 1997. I AM PRESENTLY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PRAYER COALITION FOR RECONCILIATION WHICH SERVES THE DIRECT NEEDS OF THOSE MOST TRAUMATIZED BY VIOLENCE IN AURORA, IL.: ESPECIALLY FAMILIES (SURVIVORS) OF HOMICIDES. AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE COALITION I FACILITATE : (Page 1)

1. AN AFTER CARE - ADVOCACY GROUP CALLED "FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF MURDER VICTIMS. OVER 40 FAMILIES PERIODICALLY ATTEND. AGES RANGING FROM 2 MONTHS OLD TO 60 YEARS OF AGE.

2. COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAMS THAT DELIVER BILINGUAL & BICULTURAL, NON-BROKERED, PASTORAL, PUBLIC, AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE LIVING ROOMS OF THE SURVIVORS.

3. A HOLISTIC RELATIONAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE AND FORMER GANG MEMBERS ON THE STREETS OF AURORA. EACH SCREENED INDIVIDUAL ENTERS INTO A COVENANT AGREEMENT WITH THEIR MENTORS WHO WORK WITH THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT, VALUE CLARIFICATIONS, SPIRITUAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CHILD CARE, TUTORING TOWARDS GED, RESTITUTION TO SOCIETY (ACTIVE 99'S), FAMILY, MARITAL, & CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELING, PEER GANG MINISTRIES, AND RELOCATIONS FOR S.O.S. (SHOOT ON SIGHT) INDIVIDUALS.

4. UNANTICIPATED DEATH NOTIFICATIONS AND PUBLIC VIGILS AT ALL HOMICIDE SITES.

SYNOPSIS:

AS OF JAN. 1, 1990 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 1997 THEIR HAVE BEEN #141 HOMICIDES IN AURORA, 114 HAVE BEEN PEOPLE OF COLOR. THOSE WHO SAY BULLETS ARE COLOR BLIND ARE ISSUE BLIND.

DEMOGRAPHICALLY . A RESOUNDING MAJORITY OF OUR HOMICIDES OCCUR IN NARROW CELLS & POCKETS OF OUR CITY WHERE POVERTY AND HOPELESS ABOUNDS AND OPPORTUNITY IS FOR SOMEONE DOWN THE BLOCK OR AROUND THE CORNER.

AURORA REMAINS A MONOLINGUISTIC SOCIETY MAKING ENTRY LEVEL, MINIMUM SKILL POSITIONS DIFFICULT TO IMPOSSIBLE. A LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MARGINALIZED IS THE FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL SIN OF THIS COMMUNITY. SOME NO LONGER BELIEVE, BECAUSE ITS TRUE, THAT HARD WORK CAN GET YOUR FAMILY AHEAD. THERE IS NO CORPORATE LADDER FOR SOME TO CLIMB. IN FACT, IF OUR MINORITY COMMUNITY NEEDED A LADDER IT WOULD BE FOR THE HOLE WE HAVE DUG FOR THEM. THROUGH YEARS OF BLAMING THE VICTIM AND BEING INSENSITIVE TO THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE,

SOME MAY SPEAK TO THE ECONOMIC BOOM OF AURORA, WHICH HAS NOT & WILL NOT BE IN THESE POCKETS OF POVERTY, DUE TO DEVELOPERS INSISTENCE ON DEVELOPING AWAY FROM THESE "TROUBLED AREAS." ZONING AND DENSITY ARE THE SCAPEGOATS OF GOVERNMENT WHEN IT COMES TO SHARING THE POWER OF WEALTH AND OPPORTUNITY. THE ONLY BOOM THE "HOOD" HEARS IS THE CRACKLE OF GUNFIRE.

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Chaplain Murphy / Harold Osby (page 2

AURORA & MANY OF ITS SURROUNDING WHITE COLLAR COMMUNITIES HAVE A THIRST FOR DRUGS. DRUGS ARE THE PROFIT - GANGS THE PROFITEERS. WHERE THERE ARE DRUGS THERE IS MONEY. WHERE THERE IS MONEY THERE ARE GUNS. WHERE THERE ARE GUNS THERE IS POWER. WHERE THERE IS DRUGS, MONEY, GUNS & POWER THERE IS DEATH.

BUT THE FIRST DEATH OF THIS CITY IS SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL. WE DON'T HAVE A GANG PROBLEM WE HAVE A SOCIAL PROBLEM AND A GANGS ARE THE SYMPTOMOLOGY. WE SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TOWARDS THE SYMPTOM AND CALL THAT "ENSURING THE PUBLIC SAFETY." OFFICE BASED SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GET PATRONIZED AND CONTROLLED BY THE DOMINANT CULTURE AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. WHICH BY STANDARDS OF QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT. BASED ON IMMURSEMENT AND A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE. HAVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF RAPPORT WITH THE GANG COMMUNITY. WE THROW CAUCASIAN PROGRAMS AT THE MINORITY COMMUNITY AND SCRATCH OUR HEADS IN DISILLUSIONMENT AS OUR HOMICIDE RECORD PEAKED IN 1996. PROGRAMS DON'T CHANGE PEOPLE, People change people MANY GANGS RULE BY FEAR BUT I HAVE EXPERIENCED LIVING EXAMPLES THAT LOVE AND RESPECT ARE THE DOMINANT FORCES OF ALL CULTURES. IF THIS IS OFFERED TO OUR GANG COMMUNITY FROM ASPHALT & CURBS INSTEAD OF A LEATHER SWIVEL CHAIR, OUR CITY HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE. GANG MEMBERS DO RESPOND TO A HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS INTERNAL CHANGE AND THE CHAMPIONS AND HEROES OF THIS MOVEMENT ARE THOSE WHO ARE IN THE STRUGGLE. THE SOCIAL SERVICES WE OFFER IN THIS CITY ARE FANTASTIC. SOME SIMPLY LACK LINKAGE AND MINORITY REPRESENTATION. LATINOS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THIS STRUGGLE DON'T WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR THEM, THEY WANT IT TO WORK WITH THEM. THE MINORITY COMMUNITY WANTS SELF-DETERMINATION AND NOT GOVERNMENT INFRINGEMENT IN MANAGING THEIR SOCIAL AND PASTORAL CONCERNS.

THE COALITION WILL CONTINUE TO UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF THOSE, AS ONE YOUNG FORMER GANG MEMBER PUT IT, ARE," THE PEOPLE WHO OTHERS REACH OVER AND LOCK THEIR CAR DOORS WHEN THEY SEE US." WE WILL UTILIZE SURVIVORS TO REACH SURVIVORS. WE WILL UTILIZE FORMER GANG MEMBERS TO REACH FORMER & ACTIVE GANG MEMBERS . WE WILL UTILIZE IMPOVERISHED NEIGHBORHOODS TO REACH THEIR BROTHER AND SISTER WITH THE MESSAGE OF PERSEVERANCE , ADVOCACY, AND HOPE.

THE BIGGEST ERROR IN THIS CITY IS THERE IS A GOOD GUY AND A BAD GUY. THE GOOD GUY KEEPS THE CIVIL LAW THE BAD GUY BREAKS IT. IN THE SECULAR WORLD WE HIRE PEOPLE TO CATCH THE BAD GUY AND IMPRISON THEM AS SOCIETIES GARBAGE. IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD WE ARE ALL BAD GUYS, SAVED BY GRACE, AND THEREFORE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE REDEEMABLE. THERE IS NO LOST CAUSE. WE ARE NOT JUST A SPIRITUAL OPTION WE ARE A SOCIAL SOLUTION THAT IS EXCLUDED IN EVERY FAILING GOVERNMENT PLAN AGAINST VIOLENCE.

AURORA WILL CHANGE, WHEN THOSE LEAST EFFECTED BY VIOLENT CRIME DECIDE, BY PROVIDENTIAL INSIGHT, THAT THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE DYING. EVERYONE IN AURORA HAS LOST A CHILD, THEY JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET. WE DON'T NEED MORE CHANGES OF ADDRESS - OUR CITY NEEDS A CHANGE OF HEART. SOME CAN SHOOT & RUN
But WE must stand & Fight THERE IS NO LAND OF OZ, AND ABANDONING our Brothers AND SISTERS IN PLIGHT LEADS TO FURTHER RACIAL AND ECONOMIC POLARIZATION.

I AM HAROLD OSBY'S MENTOR. HIS STORY, AS FORMER CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR THE VICE LORDS, WILL PUT FLESH ON MY THOUGHT. WELCOME HAROLD.

Rev. / Chaplain Michael J Murphy M.
215 E. New York St.
Aurora, Il 60505-3491
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Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Reverend Murphy.

At this time I would like to introduce Mr. Cano, and please proceed.

Mr. CANO. Thank you. Thank you for having us here.

I am just going to give a brief overview what I have seen in the past as the president of the Aurora Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and also as a community leader and resident of Aurora, IL.

I am part of the Prayer Coalition. We have interviewed some kids to eliminate some of the kind of problems that we have here, and we find out that the majority, they are not really bad kids. It is only really a very minimal that actually they are the problems.

We interviewed some kids and inside. We had counselors, teachers, the principal, in trying to find actually some of the problems, what actually they need. Like Mr. Murphy said, you need to work with those kids who actually they are involved, people who actually they are living that kind of life, in order for you to understand it.

You know, we see it from the outside and we don't see actually what they see it. So we did a little research, and we find out that it is a very—5 percent, 10 percent, that is the majority of the problem right now.

If we can eliminate some of the problem, I think we will have a better Aurora, a better United States to live. That is not the Latinos' problem. It is everyone's problem.

I know that I have seen the majority of the people. They are Latino, and I feel bad when I see my own people doing things that they are not supposed to do, maybe because economically they are not in a level that they should maintain, or they might see different ways to getting some money.

I don't know the solution, but I have seen the majority, they are Latinos, that is true. But it is everybody's problem. Whatever one person does or do, it is everybody's problem. And we are here trying to prevent and help those kids.

Those kids, they need some help. They need some help, especially when they are expelled from school for 3 or 4 days. Where are they going to go? They are going to go on the streets. They are going to meet some kids that are not going to school, they are going to get involved, and they are going to do what the other kids are doing.

We need to find programs where we can help those kids, something that we can demand that after someone is expelled for some reason, for any reason, they can go to this institution and stay there instead of being in the street.

Here again, I am very honored to have Larry Langston here. He had a commission year, and we are almost ready to implement the work. A lot of the community leaders, churches, all the schools that are involved in this mobilization, which I know that we are going to have a big impact in our community. And this definitely is going to happen, but it doesn't happen overnight.

You know, we see drugs coming from all over, and a lot of people—and personally, I believe personally, that it was the majority came from Mexico. The drug, it doesn't come from Mexico. It comes through Mexico, the majority.

And look: We have corrupt people in Mexico. One of the top in the Government, they actually are involved. And I admire the

United States for getting involved with some of the countries in trying to work with those countries to prevent some of the problems.

And I know that Mexico is committed to eliminate some of the problems. It is just a small percentage, a small people percentage that are actually involved in this kind of activities because they see that it is a way to get rich overnight.

And here I admire, here again, for what the United States is doing with other countries, working together to eliminate some of the problems, get to the root. Once they get to the root, the plant is not going to grow.

And wherever is a consumer, there always going to be a supplier. So how you going to target, a consumer or the supplier? I mean, United States is one of the biggest consumers in drugs, and it is a lot of easy for people to actually to bring drugs here—I want to put it in a nice way, and apologize for my English; it seems to me like I just learn it—it is easy for them to bring it over here and sell it to the consumers.

And who is the consumer? We need to target the consumers and the supplier. And you already doing—targeting the main suppliers, and there is people that, here again, like I see in the TV, I see all over, some of the major leaders, they are actually running the government. They are running countries. They are running here and there.

I mean, those are the people that we need to target. Once we target those, it is going to be a lot easier for us to work in our communities to eliminate the problems. I know it is going to take some time, and we are not going to change the world.

But if we all come together and work together instead of blaming one another, who is doing it, it is going to be a better place for us to live and our kids. Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Cano.

Dr. Barwa.

Mr. BARWA. Thank you. Do I need to move this?

Mr. HASTERT. I think you are fine.

Mr. BARWA. OK. Once again, gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. For the past 23 years, I have been fortunate enough to work with young people across the State of Illinois in my capacity as an educator, and for the past 18 years I have worked with students in the area of substance abuse prevention. It is from that perspective that I wish to share my experiences and to provide you with some recommendations.

Dealing with the problem of underage use of alcohol and other drugs has always required a multipronged approach. Interdiction efforts are required to prevent young people from gaining access to these substances, laws which impose consequences to punish those who use and/or distribute these substances, and prevention and education to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the demand for these substances among young people.

Unfortunately, as a high school administrator, I have seen few enforcement efforts that are truly effective in changing a young person's behavior, and fewer still that change the behavior in the area of the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Now, please allow me to assure you that I am not advocating reduction in penalties, and I am certainly not advocating the legalization of possession of controlled substances. I have seen far too many lives altered and far too much potential wasted by these substances to ever consider making these easier to obtain.

However, I do believe that the war on drugs should learn from the experience of the United States military as it fought a more conventional war in Vietnam; that is, that even with superior weaponry, manpower, and troop strength, a war cannot be won on the battlefield unless it is first won in the hearts and minds of the citizens.

In my experience, the most potent weapon we possess in the war on drugs is prevention. Like all weapons, prevention strategies have been improved over the years as our knowledge and experiences have expanded.

Education programs which once sought to scare young people into avoiding contact with these substances were found to be minimally effective. Unfortunately, the reduction in use as a result of these scare tactics was similar to that which is experienced when most of us have a near-collision as we drive. In the short term, our awareness is heightened and we improve our skills; but in the long term, as the scare becomes more and more remote, we return to our old habits.

Prevention specialists next attempted to implement programs which emphasized the creation of jobs, recreational programs, and other supervised activity for the youth as a means of reducing free time and thus curbing use.

While these programs did reduce use while young people were involved in the activities, studies indicated that a real reduction did not occur. Young people simply changed their usage patterns to times before and after these supervised activities.

The most extensive research revealed that young people choose to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for a variety of reasons. Most begin use to satisfy simple curiosity or as a response to peer pressure. However, those that moved on to dependence and abuse often displayed low self-esteem and poor problem-coping skills.

In response to this information, programs were established which provide accurate information on the effects of drug usage, combined with activities which allow young people to develop problem-solving skills and coping strategies in an atmosphere which fostered the improvement of self-esteem and the creation of positive peer pressure.

These programs were first offered through the teenage institutes like the Illinois Teenage Institute, which is a high school students program where students from all over the State gathered for 1 or 2 weeks each summer on a college campus.

Followup studies of those who participated in these programs indicated that their drug use habits were significantly different from those with similar backgrounds that did not attend such programs.

Consequently, a means of providing this experience to more students was sought. This search led to the creation in 1977 of Operation Snowball, Inc., a nonprofit corporation with chapters in four States and three foreign countries.

OS, Operation Snowball, is operated by a volunteer board of directors, of which I currently serve as president, and funded by several small grants which allow us to maintain a small full-time staff in Springfield.

The staff is charged with monitoring and support of current chapters, while offering training and technical assistance to encourage new chapters to form. Currently we support 120 chapters and serve more than 6,000 youths annually.

Each Operation Snowball chapter is a coalition of volunteer teens and adults who work together—we have taken the advice of listening to the teens to find out what is effective—and these types of experiences show that to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, you have to listen to teens and you have to provide wide-ranging programs.

Continued followup studies of participants using the NATI, which is the National Association of Teenage Institutes, survey indicates that participants are less likely to use and abuse alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs than their fellow students who have not participated in such programs.

The Operation Snowball staff has developed curriculum materials and provides constant training to help chapters improve. In addition, we have expanded to provide Operation Snowflurry activities to elementary school students, Operation Snowflake for middle-school students, and Avalanche programs for college students.

Operation Snowball works for several reasons. First and foremost, it is a program which deals with the issue of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on both the cognitive and affective levels. In other words, we understand that a young person's choice to use or not to use is primarily based on that student's attitude.

The formation of attitude is dependent upon the accumulation of information as well as that individual's feeling of self-worth and understanding of the alternatives available to him or her for dealing with the pressures that can precipitate the use of drugs.

The Operation Snowball Program works because there is frequent followup and reinforcement of the program's objectives throughout the student's educational career. It works because it deals with attitudes which, once established, need not be externally monitored and enforced all the time.

Operation Snowball and the Teenage Institutes are certainly not the only programs that are effective in the prevention of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Other prevention programs with similar characteristics show similar results. Yet, prevention activities continue to receive far less attention and, unfortunately, less funding than enforcement programs.

My recommendations to you are simple: First, bring national attention to these programs, the ones that are effective, so that they can be shared and expanded. Every young person in this Nation should have the opportunity to develop a healthy attitude with respect to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Second, provide funding for prevention programs on the same level as enforcement and interdiction programs. The war on drugs will be won in the hearts of our children, not in the marijuana fields of Latin America.

And third, create expanded opportunities for prevention specialists to network and share programs and practices that are effective. We can't afford to be selfish in these areas. We must all learn what each other know so that we can share them with all of our students. And Judy will talk to you about a very effective program we have in Illinois which does just that.

Finally, I hope that each of you will develop a close familiarity and understanding with prevention programs that work. I invite you to take a trip to an Operation Snowball event, just as you visited Latin America, and find out what it is that happens at these programs that makes them effective.

I would also like to just add a quick comment to what Mr. Cano said. At the school that I work with, he is correct, we have a significant portion of Latin American students, Latino students, who, in fact, are involved in that problem. But my leadership in dealing with that problem is also one of Latino students. So, the community is solving the problem.

Once again, I am honored to have had the opportunity to speak with you today. Thank you very much, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Barwa follows:]

Testimony delivered to:	Congressman Dennis Hastet's Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice
Presented:	Monday, September 22, 1997 at the Illinois Math and Science Academy
By:	Dr Robert S. Barwa, Principal of East Aurora High School and President of Operation Snowball Inc.

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. For the past 23 year I have been fortunate enough to work with young people from many parts of the state of Illinois in my capacity as an educator, and for the past 18 year I have worked with students in the area of substance abuse prevention. It is from that perspective that I wish to share my experiences and to provide you with some recommendations.

Dealing with the problem of underage use of alcohol and other drugs has always required a multi-pronged approach; interdiction efforts are required to prevent young people from gaining access to these substances, laws which imposition consequences to punish those who use and/or distribute these substances, and prevention and education to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the demand for these substances among young people. As a high school administrator I have seen few enforcement efforts that are effective in truly changing a young person's behavior, and fewer still in the area of the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Please allow me to assure you that I am not advocating any reduction in penalties, and certainly not the legalization of possession of controlled substances. I have seen far too many lives forever altered, and far too much potential wasted by these substances to ever consider making these substances easier to obtain. However, I do that the War on Drugs should learn from the experiences of the U.S. Military as it has fought a more conventional war in Vietnam. That is, even with superior weaponry, manpower, and troupe strength, a war can not be won on the battlefield unless the hearts and minds of the citizens are also conquered.

In my experience, the most potent weapon we posses in the War on Drugs is prevention. Like all weapons, prevention strategies have been improved over the years as our knowledge and experiences have expanded. Education program, which sought to "scare" young people into avoiding contact with these substances, were found to be minimally effective. Unfortunately, the reaction to these scare tactics were similar to the experience most of us have when we have a "near collision" as we drive. In the short term our awareness is heightened and our driving habits improve, but as time passes the impact of the scare becomes less and less until we find curselves using the same poor driving habits we used prior to the scare.

Prevention specialists next attempted to implement programs, which emphasized the creation of jobs, recreational programs, and other supervised activities for youth as a means of reducing free time and, thus, curb use. While these programs did reduce use while young people were involved in the activities, studies indicated that a real reduction had not occurred. Young people simply changed their usage patterns to times before or after these supervised activities.

Research revealed that young people chose to use ATODs for a variety of reasons. Most began using to satisfy simple curiosity or as a response to peer pressure. However, those that moved on to dependence and abuse often displayed low self-esteem and poor coping skills. In response to this information, programs were established which provided accurate information on the effects of drug usage, combined with activities which allowed young people to develop problem-solving skills and coping strategies in an atmosphere which fostered the improvement of self-esteem and the creation positive peer pressure. These programs were first offered through Teenage Institutes, like the Illinois Teenage Institute, in which high school students from all over the state gather for one week each summer at a college campus.

Follow-up studies of those who participated in these programs indicated that their drug use habits were significantly different from those with similar backgrounds that did not attend such programs. Consequently, a means of providing this type of program to more young people was sought. This search lead to the creation, in 1977 of Operation Snowball, Inc., a nonprofit corporation with chapters in four states and three foreign countries.

OS is operated by a volunteer board of directors, of which I currently serve as president, and funded by several grants which allow us to maintain a small full-time staff at our office Springfield. This staff is charged with the monitoring and support of current chapters, while offering training and technical assistance to encourage new chapters to form. Currently we support 120 Chapters, which serve more than 6000 youth members annually.

Each Snowball Chapter is a coalition of volunteer teens and adults who work together to provide young people with the types of experiences shown to prevent the use of ATOD. Continued follow-up studies of participants using the NATI (National Association of Teenage Institutes) Survey indicate that participants are less likely to use and abuse ATODs than their fellow students. The OS staff has developed curriculum materials and provides constant training to help chapters improve. In addition, we have expanded to provide Operation Snowflake programs to Middle School students, Operation Snowflury for elementary students, and Avalanche programs for college students.

Operation Snowball works for several reasons, first and foremost, it is a program that deals with the issue of ATOD usage on both the cognitive and affective levels. In other words, we understand that a young person's choice to use or not to use is primarily based on that person's attitude. The formation of attitude is dependent upon accurate information about the effects of ATOD usage, an individual's feeling of self-worth, and

an understanding of the alternatives available for dealing with the pressures that can precipitate this use. The program works because there is frequent follow-up and reinforcement of the program's objectives throughout a student's educational career, and it works because it deals with attitudes which, once established, need not be externally monitored and enforced.

Operation Snowball and the Teenage Institutes are certainly not the only programs that are effective in the prevention of ATOD use. Other prevention programs show similar successes. Yet prevention activities continue to receive far less attention, and less funding then enforcement programs. My recommendations to you are simple:

1. Bring national attention to those prevention programs that are effective so that they can be shared and expanded. Every young person in this nation should have the opportunity to develop a healthy attitude with respect to the use of ATOD's

2. Provide funding for prevention programs on the same level as enforcement and interdiction programs. The "War on Drugs" will be won in the hearts of our children, not in the marijuana fields of Latin America.

3. Create expanded opportunities for prevention specialists to network and share programs and practices that are effective. This is not an area where we can afford to be selfish.

Finally, I hope that each of you will develop a close familiarity and understanding of how effective prevention programs work. I invite each of you to attend an Operation Snowball event to see, first hand, how effective programs operate. I have submitted, along with my written testimony, several documents form Operation Snowball Participants who will relate to you the effect this program has had on their lives. I hope you will find the time to read and digest what they are saying.

Once again, I am honored to have the opportunity to speak with you this morning. I will be pleased to respond to any questions you may have or to provide you with any additional information.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Barwa. I have been to one of your Operation Snowball organizations. It has been effective. I was impressed.

The next speaker—we have had folks here from the Federal Government. We have people from faith-based organizations, community organizations, education. This next woman has worked from basically her kitchen table and reached out to people like herself to do great things.

And Ms. Kreamer, thank you for being here today.

Ms. KREAMER. Thank you very much. Can you hear me?

Mr. HASTERT. I think you might want to pull that a little closer.

Ms. KREAMER. A little closer. OK. Is that all right?

Mr. HASTERT. That is fine.

Ms. KREAMER. First of all, I thank you very much. And second, I don't know about all of you who are sitting in this room, but as the Ambassador spoke, I just filled with shame.

I was ashamed that people in our country—I mean, everyone—I am a person that believes everybody has to assume their responsibility for their actions. But to listen to what that country is going through because, to a large part, we in this country have an insatiable appetite for those drugs, and because there are people in this country who are promoting them—I mean, I went up to him afterward and I said, I apologize for my country. And I don't know if anybody else felt the same way, but I certainly feel that way.

Anyway, to tell you what IDEA is, IDEA is a grassroots, volunteer, Statewide organization. And our mission is simply drug-free youth, although I have to clarify this, and I think that we make a terrible mistake by believing that this is a kid problem.

Folks, this is not a kid problem. This is an adult problem. And we need to recognize that. And perhaps when we have ads from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, maybe we need to be looking more at, this is an adult problem, and there are problems across the board here that we are not looking at because it is an adult problem.

So often we—and it is easy to do—we zero in on kids and their problems, but this is an adult problem. It is an economic problem. It is problems that are beyond our comprehension. And we need to be addressing it as such.

But our group's only focus is drug-free youth. That keeps me out of trouble, probably. But anyway, we were established in 1982. We have a membership of almost 4,000 members, minus about a 100. We have membership in 42 different States in our country, and we have several different countries who are members, or people in several different countries where they have members.

I have been strong over these long years because I believe our only agenda is drug-free youth. And nobody gets too hung up on what our turf issue is, because it is just drug-free children.

And because we are volunteer, we are very independent. We are grassroots. We have a tremendous working relationship with State offices, with State agencies, with the U.S. Customs, the DEA, a tremendous support system from them. And most importantly, we have a tremendous support system from committed board members.

We have believed very strongly, as people you have spoken to, in prevention. We believe that—and as the Ambassador said, you know, if we didn't need these drugs, we wouldn't have a drug problem. So, if every one of us were to work on this problem in our own homes, we would really not have nearly the problem that we have today.

It has to be prevention. The primary focus has got to be prevention, so that we do not have these problems. And that has to occur within our own families. We have to do it for ourselves.

And in IDEA and in Illinois, we have what we call comprehensive community-based prevention, and you will find a model of that, the blueprint, in this report that we have prepared for you today. And I would hope that you would look at that.

It is something we believe that should be going on in every community in the United States. And we in IDEA do engage every single community in the State of Illinois in community—comprehensive community-based prevention.

And we do that through different educational materials: campaigns, conferences. We have a conference coming up where we expect over 1,800 people. In newsletters: Our newsletter, one of our newsletters, is reprinted by the DEA and sent to every DEA agent in the country.

We are quoted by different justice departments. We are quoted by different church publications. And we have become recognized leadership. So we have become—we have been able to engage every community in prevention.

And that is really what needs to happen. We need leadership at the national level. And we do not see that happening at this point because, you know, we have—presently we have increasing drug use among young people. We have the perception of harm associated with drug use decreasing.

We have people out there marketing marijuana as medicine, people marketing heroin as fashionable, people marketing hemp as an agricultural product. We have people marketing legalization as harm reduction. We have people promoting clean needles. We have people promoting all drug use through music and fashions and the media.

And somehow it seems to me that the bad guys are leading us. And we have to reverse this. And I am not quite sure how we reverse it other than to engage everybody in this country in this problem.

During World War II, my understanding is that everyone understood the dangers that we faced as a country and as individuals, and so, they all became involved in this problem. And whether—if you weren't abroad fighting, you were at home doing your part.

So, somehow we have got to engage all these people in this country in this problem. They have to first understand what the problem is, the danger associated with it. They have to understand what they can do. And then they need to be told how they can do it. And we are not doing that. The bad guys are doing that.

I got this last week, and this is Parent-Teen Connection. It is just a local publication that goes out of Deerfield, IL, and it goes to I don't know how many people. And on page 7 here it talks about drugs and kids.

And they quote the Drug Policy Foundation. Well, the Drug Policy Foundation is a huge organization whose sole mission is to legalize drugs. Now, I am sure these people don't have a clue who they have quoted. But they are quoting the Drug Policy Foundation, telling us as parents how we can talk to our kids about drugs.

Well, believe me, I am sure they have an agenda if they are going to try to tell me how to talk to my child about drugs. So we have to do something about getting the facts out, and that is what we in IDEA do. But it needs to happen in every part of the country.

We also need to look at funding, as we have talked about. But funding has to be for only effective prevention programs. And there need to be measured outcomes, and they need to have accountability.

The other thing that we need coming from a national source is, we need clear, consistent, and high-profile no use of illicit drugs messages. You know, last year during the campaign we had a President who came out and said, well, he wished he had inhaled, and we had a Presidential candidate who said he didn't understand that nicotine was addictive.

Well, those are not strong, consistent, no-use messages; and we need to have those. Right now we have the CDC who is supposed to be, in my mind, looking out for us, and certainly giving us strong no-use messages.

Yet here in Illinois last summer they sponsored two conferences, one with the Chicago Department of Public Health. They cosponsored this conference, a 1-day conference, and I was at that conference. And the whole conference was advocating for clean needles. Not one time was any presenter there advocating against them.

And then on August 26, CDC, working with the Illinois Department of Public Health, sponsored a symposium and the same program. Fortunately for us, because we had raised enough objections to this, we were given the opportunity to present one panel which presented an opposing view.

But I don't understand how the CDC, when according to the appropriations bill they are not supposed to be spending any Federal money on clean needle programs, can go out and advocate for clean needle programs.

But what they are doing, they are certainly not giving a clear, consistent, no-use drug message. They are giving a drug message to use drugs, and it undermines what we are telling everybody, what we are telling our children and what we are telling the adults in our communities.

And last, but not least, the Federal Government has given contracts and grants to people who—for drug policy work who do not support the U.S. drug policy. In fact, they advocate pro-drug policy. And those people then get their credentials—because they have done either a Government contract or gotten a Government grant, they take those credentials and then they go out and write using those credentials. And then it appears that these people are the, you know, authorities because they have worked for the Government and helped develop drug policy for the Government.

Well, what they are doing is undermining, again, everything that we are doing. So, I would hope that somehow we could look at an

investigation of these people and then figure out a way that we can have safeguards to prevent this from happening.

And just in closing, I would like to thank you and tell you that somehow over the last few years our message, our drug policy, has become really blurred, and somehow it needs to turn around.

And very simplistically but, you know, every State in the country needs an organization that is similar to ours that is not corrupted. And we take very little money from Government. We have a budget of $268,000, and Federal money is about $53,000. We get our money so that we are not obligated to anybody.

It can be done, but we just have to come together and engage everyone. Thanks.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Kreamer follows:]

CONGRESSMAN DENNIS HASTERT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FIELD HEARING
SEPTEMBER 22, 1997

TESTIMONY FROM
ILLINOIS DRUG EDUCATION ALLIANCE (IDEA)
JUDY KREAMER, PRESIDENT

The Illinois Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is considered by many to be the strongest volunteer, grassroots, statewide drug prevention organization in the United States. IDEA's mission is drug free youth. Founded in 1982, the organization remains strong because its *only agenda is drug free youth*, it is *volunteer*, it is *independent*, it is *grassroots*, it has tremendous *support from state offices and agencies* and it has *committed board members*.

IDEA's belief is that if people know the facts, most will make appropriate choices. They just need to be presented with the facts.

Drug prevention is the solution to our country's drug problem. Drug prevention needs to be a national priority. Drug enforcement contains the problem. Drug treatment treats the problem. Drug prevention prevents there ever being a problem!

Illinois has developed a comprehensive community-based prevention model that has proven to be very effective. The model targets the community at large - *keeping the healthy people healthy and building toward their potential.* It works to impact families, youths, adults, community institutions, government, health care providers, schools, faith communities and media. The key strategies are community organization, education, community-wide public education and marketing campaigns, systems change, impactors training, skills training, influence on social policy, asset building, creation of positive alternatives, and media education.

Prevention is an ongoing, systematic and interactive process that builds the capacities of individuals, families and communities to promote healthy behaviors, lifestyles and environments.

IDEA has created a *Blueprint for Comprehensive Community-Based Drug Prevention* of identified methods that work. (Attachment A).

Drug prevention needs respect, support and commitment if it is going to be effective. Drug prevention is not given credence because the process is misunderstood and not easily measured. Although prevention is a relatively new discipline, there is a body of knowledge that describes effective methodology. Drug prevention does not cost much, it is simple and it can be done by of each us. While prevention does not cost much in dollars, it does cost in man hours; we all have to work at it. The nature of prevention, and the fact that it is a relatively new discipline, makes prevention difficult to measure; in the last several years, however, significant effort has gone into quantifying the process. It is measurable.

The federal government needs to recognize drug prevention as a primary strategy for addressing the drug problem and fund it accordingly. Federal money intended for prevention must go to effective and measurable prevention. The government's commitment to prevention must provide leadership for states, communities, schools and individuals.

IDEA ENGAGES EVERY ILLINOIS COMMUNITY IN DRUG PREVENTION THROUGH PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS, CONFERENCES, NEWSLETTERS, A COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY NETWORK AND RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP

RED RIBBON WEEK CAMPAIGN

The Red Ribbon Week Campaign is a drug awareness campaign that serves to involve every Illinois community in the process of drug prevention. IDEA sponsors the state campaign during the last week of October. We develop a 20-page booklet outlining the theme, prevention activities, educational materials, contests, press releases, and public service announcements, and we send it to over 23,000 people each year in early May. (Attachment B)

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN

April Alcohol Awareness Month Campaign is a statewide campaign designed to focus attention on the number one drug of choice for youth, alcohol. For this, IDEA creates a 16-page booklet outlining the theme, prevention activities, press releases, op ed pieces, and educational materials. It is sent to over 18,000 people each year in January. Some of the information published in the booklet is reprinted by State Farm Insurance and put in their "new driver" packets. (Attachment C)

ILLINOIS STATEWIDE YOUTH FORUM

The Illinois Statewide Youth Forum is an opportunity for the youth of the State to present the findings from their Local Forums to the leaders of Illinois. The Illinois State Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka, served as the honorary chairperson. Local Youth Forums allow young people to testify before a panel of community leaders and parents on how alcohol affects the quality of their lives. Each Forum serves a as a catalyst for the community to address any problems identified in the hearing.

IDEA sponsors the State Youth Forum in cooperation with: Office of Lieutenant Governor, Office of the Treasurer, State Board of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation - Division of Traffic Safety, and Illinois National Guard. (Attachment D)

IDEA PREVENTION CONFERENCE

The IDEA Conference is designed to give adults and youth the knowledge, resources and skills to initiate or continue drug prevention programs in their communities. This year's 15th annual conference is expected to attract over 1,700 adults and youth. The two-day conference is held on the Sunday and Monday before Thanksgiving and the location alternates between Chicago and central Illinois. This year, members of the faith community are invited to the conference on Monday for workshops on involving the faith community in prevention.

There are 15 state offices and agencies that work with IDEA to present the conference:

- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Office of the Attorney General
- Office of the Secretary of State
- Department of Human Services,
  - Division of Community Health and Prevention
- Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety
- State Police
- State Board of Education
- Illinois National Guard
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- U.S. Customs Service
- University of Illinois, Cooperative Extension Service
- Students Against Driving Drunk
- IADDA/Operation Snowball/TTI
- Illinois Elks Association

(Attachment E)

BEST OF IDEA

The *Best of IDEA* is a 20-page news magazine published 3 times a year. The magazine is a highly respected, hard-hitting, often quoted and widely circulated publication. The *Best of IDEA* is one of very few publications writing about what is really happening with the drug problem. Known and respected writers from around the country contribute regularly. (Attachment F)

TRAIN UP THE CHILD

Train Up the Child is a newsletter specifically targeted to the faith community. The publication outlines how communities of faith can help their congregations prevent the pain and suffering associated with substance abuse. The Fall edition highlights Red Ribbon Week Campaign, and the Winter edition features Alcohol Awareness Month Campaign. **It is important for the faith community to lead their congregations in a spiritual response to the moral issues of substance abuse.** (Attachment G)

IDEA PREVENTION GUIDE

The 56-page *IDEA Prevention Guide* offers a glossary of drugs, slang terms, commentaries on current issues, recommended resources and curricula, and prevention strategies. The *Prevention Guide* is revised and updated annually. It is printed by the Lieutenant Governor's Office for distribution at the IDEA Conference. (Attachment H)

IDEA COMMUNICATION NETWORK

The IDEA Communication Network is a communication and advocacy network. The Network accesses IDEA's extensive communication system and keeps its members informed about current issues impacting prevention. Communications are sent on a regular basis and alerts go out as needed.

IDEA'S STRUCTURE

A combination of unique factors makes IDEA a strong and vital organization. IDEA is successful because its only agenda is drug free youth; it is volunteer; it is grassroots, it is independent; it has tremendous support from state offices and agencies; and it has committed board members.

IDEA is the product of very committed people. It is governed by a working board of 36 directors and supported by a Youth Board, Young Adult Board,

Liaison Board, and an Advisory Board. The fact that the Board is volunteer allows for independence and integrity. State offices and agencies are tremendously supportive of IDEA's efforts, and we believe it is due to our clearly stated agenda, our independence and our grassroots volunteer philosophy.

IDEA has an annual budget of over $250,000, with only about $53,000 coming from governmental sources. We pay a part-time bookkeeper, part-time secretary, conference coordinator, and two conference registrars.

HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP SUPPORT DRUG PREVENTION EFFORTS

Clear National Leadership

We need clear national leadership! The drug problem needs to be a number one national priority! Every citizen needs to be engaged in this drug war. When our national security was threatened during WWII, every citizen participated in the war effort and was proud to do so. That same energy, commitment, determination and pride needs to be harnessed for the war on drugs. The citizens of the United States have a need, and indeed a right, to know that our national security is being threatened and that this threat comes from within. They need to understand the nature of the threat.

Once Americans understand the peril they face, they need to know what to do and who they can follow. There needs to be a national spokesperson and/or group who is constantly speaking out against drugs and against individuals who promote them. The person and/or group must be strong; provide clear, concise and consistent "no use" messages; and not allow the effort to be deterred, compromised, or subverted.

We all need to come together against illicit drug use. At the present time there is no person or group that has, or probably can, unite us in our mission. We need a battle plan, with a mission for every concerned citizen. We need practical, well defined goals, milestones and strategies. Perhaps the leadership for such an offensive could come from the Democrats and Republicans in the Congress.

An effective way of engaging citizens in the war on drugs is to build organizations similar to IDEA in every state. IDEA is willing to be a resource for others.

Funding

Prevention does not cost much, and it is extremely cost effective. However, often times money does not get to where it can be most effective and there is no accountability. Sometimes, prevention is not funded because the process is not understood, it is not easily measured, and it is given little credence.

The concept of prevention - *keeping the healthy people healthy and building toward their potential* - is lost when confronted with individuals who have immediate crisis needs. The expediency of the prevention approach is ignored.

We would be well served if the federal government would formally recognize drug prevention as a primary strategy for addressing the drug problem and fund it accordingly. Too often, large grants are awarded to groups whose first priority is to sustain themselves. The available funds should be divided into smaller sums and disseminated in a manner that meets the needs of all communities. There needs to be measurable outcomes and accountability.

Another possibility for funding is to provide tax incentives to those in a community who contribute and participate in community drug prevention programs. This disseminates available funds, makes the funds equally accessible to everyone, thus engaging more people in the prevention process.

Clear, Consistent, and Highly Visible "No Use" Drug Policies

In order to mount any kind of an effective prevention offensive, we need clear, consistent, and highly visible "no use" drug policies. When policies are not clear, consistent and highly visible, drug prevention efforts are easily undermined by those whose agenda is to legalize drugs.

A high-profile issue today is "clean needle programs." The law reads that no federal money is to be spent on "clean needle programs" (NEPs). However, in Illinois this summer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided funding and technical assistance for two conferences promoting "clean needle programs."

In Chicago on June 30, 1997 the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention co-sponsored a conference, "Getting the Point," at which NEPs were promoted. Not only did the CDC co-sponsor the conference, but there were no speakers invited to present the opposing view.

The CDC then went on to provide funding and technical assistance to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for a second NEP conference, "HIV Prevention Among Injection Drug Users," on August 26, 1997. The original agenda for the meeting clearly presented a biased perspective. Only after a number of telephones calls and with the cooperation of IDPH, were we able to present a panel offering the opposing viewpoint.

The influence the CDC has is enormous. The CDC is not presenting "clear, consistent, and highly visible 'no use' drug messages," and our efforts are being subverted. (Attachment I)

Not Supporting Those Who Advocate for Legalized Drugs

Federal grants and contracts are being awarded to individuals who do not subscribe to U.S. drug policy, and who, in fact, advocate against it. They use their government work to establish impressive credentials and then advance their pro drug positions using these credentials. This practice serves to seriously undermine drug prevention efforts.

Mark Kleiman, President of Botec Analysis Corporation, is just one person who has received many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth in government contracts to help shape drug policy. He has stated that: "marijuana should be legalized;" "If we could get this society to define excess rather than drugs as the enemy to make war on, we would have made great progress;" and "Kids have overdosed on anti-drug messages. This is coming at the end of the 12 most hysterical years in American drug policy." Mr. Kleiman speaks at Drug Policy Foundation conferences, the organization whose goal is to legalize drugs. (Attachment J)

There are a number of pro drug/legalization people collecting government dollars in the name of drug policy research. IDEA can provide additional information upon request.

An investigation as to how individuals advocating for legalized drugs gain their influence and their funding is imperative. Also, we need safeguards established which would prohibit the awarding of federal grants and contracts pertaining to drug policy, to those who are pro drug advocates.

The United States has a serious drug problem. We have drug use escalating among youths; the perception of harm associated with drug use, decreasing; a drug culture promoting drug use through music, fashions, and the media; a propaganda campaign to legitimatize drug use; and a misled and uninformed public.

Drug use is being foisted on society, particularly young people, through marketing campaigns that would have us believe drugs are safe and beneficial to our health. Marijuana is purported to be a "medicine." Legalization is pushed as a means of reducing the harm associated with drug use, "harm reduction." Clean needle programs for injecting drug users are sold as ways to stop the spread of the HIV virus. Heroin use is considered fashionable. Hemp is promoted as an agricultural crop to help save the environment.

We are forfeiting our morals, trust, hope, vision, faith and dreams. We have to do something to stop this!

Illinois Drug Education Alliance (IDEA)
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Mr. HASTERT. Thank you. Thank you very much, and to all our presenters.

Congressman Mica, would you like to open with questions?

Mr. MICA. Well, one of the problems we have at the Federal level is trying to reestablish again a national drug policy. A great deal of it was dismantled in my first 2 years when I got in office, from 1992 to 1994.

And then also trying to put Federal resources where they can be most effective. While I am a strong advocate of source country interdiction and assistance and law enforcement, I also recognize the need for effective education, prevention, and treatment programs.

One of the problems we have is we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 250 drug treatment programs that are federally sponsored. The success rate is horrible. I mean, if you evaluated this—I come from the private sector in business—you would never let another contract to any of these folks because it is so bad.

We have a faith-based ministry that has no Federal funding at all, and they have like a 93-percent success rate, and they don't want any Federal money. What we are trying to do is sort out where we should put Federal resources and also to groups that are successful in educating.

But we have been putting back money into these programs. In fact, in 1993–94, most of the money went into education and prevention. What is startling is if you look at the statistics, 1993, 1994, 1995, drug use among our teens and our youth, our young people, has absolutely skyrocketed. I don't care how anyone presents the statistics, but they are an absolute disaster.

So, we put more Federal money and resources into these education, prevention, and treatment programs, and we are getting less in return.

My question, maybe to Mr. Murphy, is what specifically is your advice to us in how to best use the Federal assistance in programs? Are you even open to Federal assistance, and can our Federal assistance be pinpointed so that it can be most effective?

Reverend MURPHY. I think that is up to each organization. I think one of the reasons that the organizations that are 501(c)(3), oftentimes, that are directed toward faith-based programs turn down Federal money or don't want it is because it involves so many infringement issues, so many pieces of the pie that they don't want to get involved in. They want to be able to be free to conduct their philosophy and ideology as they see fit. And as you said, it is 93 percent successful.

It is interesting to me that we have yet to be able to successfully treat a disease called alcoholism in anything other than a faith-based program in an aftercare sense.

And I see the same thing in terms of our gang community and others, where there may be diseases of the soul, where there may be all sorts of familial and social aspects that have led to these young men finding themselves in these plights, and yet we seem to ignore the issue of the faith aspect because there seems to be constitutional guardians that want to push it to the left or to the right.

I believe it is worth taking a good look at in resolving some of our problems in the city. I also believe it is a real good answer to many of the problems in Central America. They trust their pastors.

Mr. MICA. So, are you saying, now, that we should look at those organizations that have a good success rate, making funds available to assist them but keeping the strings free, you know, all the Federal strings that are usually attached to these programs?

For faith-based, making funds available without—I don't want to put words in your mouth. Tell me what you want us to do to assist and what would be most successful.

Reverend MURPHY. Sure. I will be glad to tell you what I would like you to do. I would like for funds to come in the direction of organizations such as ourselves, providing that we are able to do qualitative assessments and not quantitative assessments; that we are able to feed our sheep and not count them.

Quantitative assessments do not work. They are simply pumped up in order to show the efficiency of a program. Qualitative assessments sit to the right of me. They breathe and have heartbeats. They are human beings.

So if I am going to accept Federal money, I am going to accept it based on the fact that what I am doing works, and you are going to stand aside and let it happen.

Mr. MICA. Do you accept it now?

Reverend MURPHY. No, I don't.

Mr. MICA. You don't. Why?

Reverend MURPHY. I accept municipal funds on a minimal level.

Mr. MICA. But no Federal money?

Reverend MURPHY. No Federal money.

Mr. MICA. State money?

Reverend MURPHY. No.

Mr. MICA. All right. Ms. Kreamer wanted to comment.

Ms. KREAMER. I wanted to—the State of Texas has done a lot within the last year or so heading this direction, toward faith-based programs, and making it user friendly or, you know, so that they can operate in their State. So you might want to look at what they are doing down there.

Mr. MICA. What about your organization? Now, you said you take $53,000?

Ms. KREAMER. Yes, $53,000.

Mr. MICA. And that is Federal money?

Ms. KREAMER. Yes.

Mr. MICA. Which is about, what, 20 percent, somewhere in that range?

Ms. KREAMER. I need my calculator to do the math for me. Well, our budget is $268,000, so whatever that is.

Mr. MICA. OK.

Ms. KREAMER. And no, we don't want any more Federal money. Thank you.

Mr. MICA. You don't want more Federal money?

Ms. KREAMER. No.

Mr. MICA. Now, the other thing, too, is we are sitting up there trying to decide how these funds are disbursed and what we should support as a Congress. The system does work, believe it or not, but only when we hear from the local folks what they want us to do.

So part of this field hearing and the hearings we have held across the country is for you to tell us exactly what you want us to do with your Federal dollars in these programs, and effectiveness is possible.

Mr. Cano, you are hit pretty hard and folks, Hispanic-American folks, in this community, it sounds like. What is your recommendation? Again, specifically what do you want from us that could do the most effective job with the limited dollars we have available to help young people from your community?

Mr. CANO. Well, right here in Aurora, we've got a lot of programs, and I guess what I recommend is to——

Mr. MICA. I know that we have got a lot of programs.

Mr. CANO. Exactly.

Mr. MICA. But I want to know what is successful in Aurora and what you see as successful and what we should be supporting with your money back here.

Mr. CANO. Well, that is what I was coming to.

Mr. MICA. OK.

Mr. CANO. I mean, we do have a lot of organizations out there, and some that are not very successful because no one is monitoring, actually finding out what they are doing.

I mean, you need to identify who is very effective.

Mr. MICA. You tell me. Right now I am going back. My colleague and your representative and I will be deciding in the next few days, with the Congress. He actually has more say, probably, than anyone as to how these moneys are expended.

My question, again, is: Tell me what program you want us to spend the money, or what efforts from the Federal Government you—how you want those funds directed. What do you see as most successful to assist your young people here?

Mr. CANO. I will say prevention.

Mr. MICA. Which prevention programs?

Mr. CANO. Helping to prevent kids to get involved in——

Mr. MICA. Is there one that works here?

Mr. CANO. Here again, we are going back to this. A lot of organizations, but I cannot tell you which one is effective and which one is not. I guess someone needs to do something like that and find out which organization works.

I mean, there is a lot of organizations all over, and a lot of, they are not doing the job they were supposed to do. I am part of the Prayer Coalition, and I can tell you they are very effective, you know.

We started a community mobilization with the help of the city of Aurora and the police department, which community leaders, they are getting involved. And I am sure that is going to be very effective. I mean, we have—we just started. We got pretty good people—school leaders, churches, community leaders. And that is going to be—I know it is going to be effective.

But how can we—as community leaders, we need some help. I mean, this is a voluntary. No one pays us. We want to make Aurora perfect. But for me to identify which one is effective and which one is not, I cannot tell you that.

But there are some organizations that are very effective, and I can tell you one is here right next to me.

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Mr. MICA. Mr. Barwa.

Mr. BARWA. I think that he has hit on one of the key issues where Federal moneys could be used very effectively, and that is that we have not done a good job as a prevention community in communicating what programs are effective.

If I come to a new community and I want my child to be involved in a program that is going to be effective in preventing them from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, I don't know what they are.

Mr. Cano, a community leader, doesn't know what they are because we don't have an effective means of saying, in public, these are the programs that work. This is how you get information about those programs.

I think that one of the key needs that I see in order to expand the effective programs that we are aware of is that we have to have the mechanism for promoting them. We have to have the mechanism that says, these are the effective programs. This is how I get in touch with those people.

Right now, on the budget that I operate in Operation Snowball, we do use some Federal dollars. We use the limited resources that we have to maintain current programs. We do not have sufficient funds to expand the program.

That is what the need is, to be able to say to people, here is a program that works. Here is the research that indicates that it works. And I agree with you that the research would be nice if we could do it in other ways. But even the research that we do proves that our program is effective. We just can't get the word out.

Ms. KREAMER. May I speak? Because I feel very strongly that we do know how to do prevention. And we in Illinois have been doing it far longer than almost anyone else in the United States, if not anyone else.

And again, if you refer to this report that we put together, it is laid out. It is really very simple: I mean, there are about eight different steps. And these are how you can go about, in your community, doing prevention. And this is proven. There are statistics and so forth to show that it does work.

What we think that would be a real good idea is the money that you are talking about giving, is to go back and to create tax incentives so that here in Aurora, businesses have a tax incentive to participate in prevention. Stores have a tax incentive to participate in prevention.

I don't know how you would structure it, but if we could create tax incentives for people in communities to do prevention and spend the money that way, we know that it is equally accessible to everybody and we know that then it engages everyone in the process.

Mr. MICA. Well, tax incentives might be a little bit tough. But you also, I think, hit on one of the problems I see, is this lack of a coordinated message from the national level, and also a policy—you raised a very good point, I think, that I want to look into about contracts, Federal contracts going to folks who aren't committed to a responsible policy relating to drug prevention.

I think that that is something that we ought to look at. We ought to have a little caveat on Federal contracts and folks that are getting Federal money.

And I think we will also look into CDC, Mr. Chairman. I think that if we have got them out there, the House just voted—wasn't it last week—on the needle exchange program pretty overwhelmingly. And we have got a Federal agency working in an opposite direction. So——

Mr. HASTERT. We had a hearing, just had a hearing Thursday on it, too.

Mr. MICA. So, I think that those issues we will follow up on. I appreciate it.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you. And certainly my colleague, Mr. Mica from Florida, has been working on this issue a long, long time, as matter of fact, even long before he ever got in Congress. And I appreciate his understanding and work in this area.

You know, we did pass last year the Drug-Free Communities—this year the Drug-Free Communities Act. Throwing money at communities isn't the answer. The answer is trying to get people to work together.

Every community is a little bit different. Every community is a little bit unique. But I think the key is to find the school folks, the faith-based folks, the fraternal organizations, those people who want to band together.

I mean, the communities are people saying, we are not going to tolerate this in our streets any more, and to give them some funds to organize and have the infrastructure that they can at least keep records or keep a secretary or this type of thing.

But the real work, we know, comes from folks who do volunteer work, who are immersed in the community and are willing to do that day after day after day. And as Reverend Murphy said, you just can't immerse yourself for a day and do your part. It takes a long, long time. And I appreciate those remarks and certainly that effort.

One of the things that we are trying to put together, and Colonel Kinney, you might want to talk about this a little bit, but we need to work and focus in, even in the drug czar's office, on tasks that we need to put together in the next few years, and then make somebody responsible to make sure those tasks get done, and to give the drug czar the availability—you know, one of the problems we have in Congress, we have seven or eight different communities of jurisdiction. We have seven or eight different committees that appropriate funds.

How do you bring all this stuff together and make sure that somebody is coordinating these efforts so they get used the way we want to? Do you have any thoughts on that?

Lieutenant Colonel KINNEY. Well, I appreciate that. That is indeed one of the things that we are doing, and the Speaker has been certainly extremely helpful—Representative Gingrich, Speaker of the House, that is—has been extremely helpful in helping all of us to focus on defining just what success might look like for drug policy.

And clearly I think the central purpose of drug policy has got to be to reduce drug use and its consequences. And I emphasize use

first because that is at the heart of it, demand. We have got to do all the other things, too, though.

And I think that if we look back at the past 20 years—in fact, it probably happened in the first 15 out of the past 20 years—we went from a high in 1975, a record high in drug use in the United States, down to—in the early nineties to a low of about 5 percent, 5.9 percent. In fact, I think this was the lowest that we got it to, in past month drug usage rates, which is the sort of one line that we watch as an indicator of the drug use problem in the United States.

And since then, it has held relatively steady at 5.9, 6, 6.1 percent, 6 percent. And what we are trying to sort out is, what should we define as the low that drug policy should drive us toward?

And Mr. Chairman, we think, and we have still got to get total interagency consensus on this, but we think it is not unrealistic to talk in terms of bringing it down another 50 percent in the coming decade.

And that is what we are trying to solve right, whether we should go back and look at the drug history trends, drug usage trends in the United States and figure out, should we go peg at the historical lows or should we go even lower?

And we really think that the answer is going to be that we should, through effective drug policy, come up with the sort of full employment analog in drug policy for zero drug use. Everybody knows that there is really no such thing as zero unemployment.

We have some pretty good macroeconomic research and programmatics that tell us that low unemployment is probably about 4 percent, maybe even lower. A decade ago, we would have said maybe it was 7 percent or 8 percent.

And what we need to do is just find what that zero drug usage rate is. What is that low resting point? We think it is probably going to be a 3-percent range. And that is what we are working toward, to finding it, to give you an answer in the next month or so of what might do that.

But on the other hand, as we have worked toward that, I think we have got to consider the notion that strings are attached to Federal funding. And I have got your point: We can't go out and fund programs that don't work.

But conversely, I think we have got to have one string that we tell everybody that we have got to have it and that is the string of accountability. The Congress writes the checks; you do it on behalf of the American public, the American people.

And we, the Federal Government, and then the State and local organizations that get those funds from you owe you a simple answer: "Is my program effective or not effective?" And we need to make sure that that string of accountability is maintained.

And Mr. Chairman and Mr. Mica, sir, I am a little concerned that sometimes—as we go toward the direction of more and more bloc grants, that we may not maintain the string of accountability that we need to maintain for all of our programs.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you. Mr. Cano.

Mr. CANO. Yes?

Mr. HASTERT. One of the things that I appreciate your testimony, and sometimes the frustration of finding out what really does work

and what doesn't work. I wish we knew in Congress what always works and what doesn't work, and unfortunately, we don't always know that.

Your community, though, your neighborhoods, people who belong to your organization, their families, seem to be more impacted than anybody else in this community. It is their kids, certainly on the east side of Aurora, and all over this town. But focused on—and I have a brother who teaches on the east side of Aurora and know that the impact is there.

What things do you think that those communities—is it better—in your opinion, is it fraternal organizations, is it faith-based organizations, is it the schools? How best can those communities come together to fight this?

Mr. CANO. Boy, you asked me a very difficult question. But there are organizations that are helping in getting people together and come together and fight this battle, everyone. I mean, I see in my community that there are the low—probably all the communities, I mean, the level economic, where husband and wife, they both work, one first shift or second shift. Some of the kids, they are all by themselves there.

And that is probably one of the reasons the kids get a little bit out of line, and not enough attention. As you know, you know, people who come here to the United States, they come to work. They are not wealthy people. They are not middle-class people. They are the poorest people in the United States.

I came to this country trying to find myself a dream, which I did. And it is difficult for someone to live in a house where only husband is working and raise kids in a family and pay bills. I mean, it is not easy. I mean, and that is one of the main problems, is that both parents have to work. They are not well-educated parents.

And sometimes they see the economic benefit in both working and to raise the kids for a better life, and sometimes that is when the kids kind of get out of line. And really, I don't know what will be the answer. It just is working with the schools, helping to prevent some of the kids that they get involved.

Here again, like I said earlier, some kids that are expelled from school for 3 or 4 days, they go back to the streets, no place to go. And that is once they get to that, they are going to continue getting in trouble to be expelled again.

We need to find programs so we can help those kids and go after school and help those kids. Let's face it. We, the Latino community, is the poorest community overall.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Barwa, you wanted to comment on that?

Mr. BARWA. Yes. If I could draw an analogy for you, when I became principal of East High last year, my boss said to me, your job is—one of your jobs is to reduce the dropout rate. What program will you implement?

And my answer to him, as I set my goals for this year, is, I can't implement a program. I have to implement several, because the reasons that kids drop out of schools are so varied that I have to attack the problem on several fronts.

I think that the question you posed bears the same answer. We cannot say that it can all be done by educational institutions, nor fraternal institutions, nor faith-based institutions. I think what we

have to do is have a variety, a menu, if you will, of programs that are going to be in the community that we can then implement for the people that have a specific need.

I can work very effectively with my young people who find education to be of value to them. I can offer them very strong programs. I am working very hard to keep those kids that he is talking about in school rather than kick them out.

But it is much more difficult for me to work with those students for whom school is of very little importance but, rather, the faith-based organization might be far more effective. So I think the answer is, we have to support them all.

Mr. HASTERT. One of the things you have implemented in your school is an ROTC program.

Mr. BARWA. That is correct.

Mr. HASTERT. How has that helped, or has it?

Mr. BARWA. I don't have any direct data that can show you that it has helped in the drug abuse prevention program. I can show you that it has, in fact, improved attendance among those students that are involved in that program.

I can show you that it has decreased discipline problems among the students that are involved in that program. I can show you that—without empirical data, I can show you that it has increased pride and a sense of self-worth among those young people.

That is a program that has been very beneficial to us because it has given the kids something to belong to. But again, I can't say to you that I could walk out and implement that program at the next school down the street and it would be effective.

It is effective here because of the people that I have running that program. We have the right mix of people doing the right things for the right kids. And down the street, with another person running the program, it may not be effective.

Mr. HASTERT. Last question: Mr. Osby, you have been—you have lived this nightmare and hope for a dream at the end. Why—we have heard a lot of reasons, the social reasons, philosophical reasons, why people get in trouble and try to find solutions.

You have lived through this. Why do kids at the age of 12, 10 or 12 or 14 years of age, all of a sudden join a gang? Is it to belong? Is it to get money? Is it—what are they looking for that they can't find in other parts of society?

Mr. OSBY. A big reason is trying to fit in, trying to fit in with other people. Plus you see, you know, a lot of the older gang members are big time dealers, too. So they have the money. They have got the respect. And they look up to that.

They don't know anything else, really. I don't—can't speak of any, you know—this isn't anything I'm used to in the streets.

Mr. HASTERT. All right. Your own experience.

Mr. OSBY. They don't know anything. I mean, the only thing—I know for myself the only way I was going to change was this—you know, was working with Christ and belonging to something that was real, you know.

And you still get the same kind of respect I have seen now. I mean, I wasn't looking for it, but I see that I get the same kind of—I get a better respect living my life as a godly man, you know, living for love and not fear.

They just need to be a part of something. That is just basically all there is to that. I mean, I can't say what does and what doesn't work. I know that the only thing that really touches anybody's lives is going to be—is any kind of faith, you know, anything that deals with God.

You know, it is going to—that is the only thing I have seen work, you know, either that or—and the only way it is going to work is if we work with—if the Aurora Police Department works with us.

They have worked with us. Comdr. Ray Weaver, I believe, took one of our guys that wanted to turn himself in and just treated him with total respect. So, you know, as long as the police department keeps working with the faith groups, you know, like our group, I can see a big change coming for Aurora.

I mean, we have just hit the streets Saturday, and we talked to probably about 25 different guys that are interested, you know, just talking with us, maybe talking about turning their lives around.

So they also want to turn themselves in, but they don't want to turn themselves in if they are not going to be respected, you know, if they are going to get treated like garbage. Why take themselves through that, you know.

But I believe that the Aurora Police Department is giving us that respect, and that is the only way I see any change, to be honest with you.

Mr. HASTERT. I think that is probably a good place to end. Thank you very much. I really appreciate this panel's participation.

At this time I would ask our third panel to please come forward. And I would like to welcome Sgt. Roy Garcia, who represents the North Central Narcotics Task Force of the Illinois State Police. We also have Chief Larry Langston from the Aurora Police Department, and also Mr. Joseph Birkett, who is the DuPage County State's attorney. So if you gentlemen would please come forward.

Gentlemen, in accordance with our committee rules, we are going to ask you to be sworn in. And so would you please stand and raise your right hand.

[Witnesses sworn.]

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

And Mr. Birkett, would you please begin with your testimony. I understand you are on a very limited time scale here, and appreciate your participation.

STATEMENTS OF JOSEPH BIRKETT, DUPAGE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY; ROY GARCIA, SERGEANT, NORTH CENTRAL NARCOTICS TASK FORCE, ILLINOIS STATE POLICE; AND LARRY LANGSTON, CHIEF, AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. BIRKETT. Well, good morning, Congressmen, and thank you for inviting me here. You have——

Mr. HASTERT. You might want to pull your mic up a little bit closer. There you go.

Mr. BIRKETT. Good morning, Congressman, and thank you for inviting me here to talk a little bit about DuPage County's efforts as far as the State's attorney's office and our efforts to combat drug abuse and drug dealing and trafficking in DuPage County. You

have before you, hopefully, a copy of our program outline, program narrative, from DuPage County.

Let me just tell you a little bit about my own personal background and my approach to these issues. I did not learn my background as far as law enforcement and the criminal justice system just from going to law school and being a prosecutor. I grew up on the southwest side of Chicago at South Austin. We had the highest crime rate in the city of Chicago.

In the late sixties and early seventies when we lived there, it was a gang-infested neighborhood. The only difference between that neighborhood now and when I grew up there is the fact that guns are much more prevalent in our neighborhood. When I was growing up, knives and other weapons were what you came to expect on the streets.

You have before you some of the things that we are doing in DuPage County in terms of our drug prosecution unit. Let me just tell you—highlight a few things that we are also doing to combat the problem of drug use and trafficking in DuPage County.

I heard one of the speakers on the last panel talk about drug paraphernalia and the fact that it is being marketed in Illinois, throughout Illinois, even though there is drug paraphernalia and drug statutes on the books to prevent that.

Last week we shut down another head shop in DuPage County, a store in Downers Grove that was openly marketing items for distribution to young people that are uniquely designed for ingesting controlled substances and cannabis.

Some of the other things that we are doing as far as policy, I recognize that as State's attorney I cannot just approach the problem of drug use and abuse and gang violence by being simply a prosecutor in a courtroom. I have to be a policy leader for the county as far as prosecution policy, enforcement policies, and prevention policies.

Along those lines, we have a DuPage County State's attorney's gang task force, which is sponsoring a seminar on October 7 with school officials, law enforcement officials, social workers, and religious leaders.

We also are very active in nuisance abatement, in shutting down and having people who are using their apartments for the purposes of illicit drug trafficking evicted. That has been a very successful policy that the attorney general in our State, Jim Ryan, is very active in in training throughout Illinois, and it is a policy that works. I would encourage every prosecutor, every local prosecutor, to take a look at it and make use of it.

The forfeiture moneys that we obtain from drug dealers is being used in making grants to the 400 schools in DuPage County. Last year we gave out grants of $11,000 to schools for use in drug awareness and prevention. I heard one of the last speakers talk about the Snowball program; last year, our drug forfeiture moneys were very vital in making sure that the Snowball program in DuPage County was successful.

We are also working very closely with the attorney general's office through the use of the statewide grand jury. In DuPage County, we also recognize that if we are going to have any impact, we have to reach people at a young age.

Some of the problems with juvenile crime, which is on the rise and has been on the rise for the last several years, is the fact that law enforcement has been crippled by confidentiality provisions in the State statutes that prevent them from communicating with one another about arrests that do not result in court involvement.

We have addressed that locally in DuPage County by creating a data base so police officers can share information on juveniles, target juveniles sooner, and address those problems. We find that in most cases, with the juveniles who get caught up in the criminal justice system, there are family issues as well as just their own antisocial behaviors.

There are also family issues which often involve substance abuse, controlled substances and also alcohol abuse. Through this data base, we are able to share that information sooner and address not only that child's specific problem but the family issues.

Many of the leaders that were here earlier talked about those issues that have to be addressed in the family. Hopefully through this program we are going to be able to do a better job of addressing those issues.

Those are just a few things that we are doing in DuPage County. You have—I don't want to—I am not going to read from this specifically, but you can see what we are doing in DuPage County with our drug prosecution unit, which is partially funded from a grant from the Justice Department administered through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Very effective; without that funding, we would not be as successful as we are. We have a 95-percent conviction rate, with 88 percent of drug offenders who are involved in drug trafficking of either controlled substances or cannabis in DuPage County going to jail, approximately 50 percent going to the penitentiary and the rest doing county jail time in conjunction with probation.

We have found that that aggressive prosecution is very effective as a deterrent. We know it from our records as far as recidivism, and we also know it through eavesdropping applications where we listen to tapes of drug dealers telling the undercover agent that they should not be in DuPage, they shouldn't be doing the deal here in DuPage County, because if you do it in DuPage, you are going away for a long time. That is the message we want to send. That is the message that we are sending through our aggressive prosecution unit.

The unit is very proactive. We are involved at the very basic level with police officers and investigators when they open a file. That is essential. I mean, that should be done everyplace.

For example, last year we had 32—or 52 electronic eavesdropping applications, the highest in the State outside Cook County. Cook County, which is 10 times our size, had 62 applications. That makes for—that type of communication and cooperation with police makes for successful investigations and successful prosecutions.

A drug dealer's words on tape is the best evidence in court. And with that type of evidence, that is why we have a 95-percent conviction rate. We have got a great relationship with all the law enforcement agencies throughout DuPage, including Aurora, which has 25,000 residents who live in DuPage County. We have got a

great relationship with them, and that relationship is fostered by the Federal grant money that we receive that supports our unit.

I don't want to go on any longer and take any more time; I am on a tight schedule. But you have my program outline, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Birkett follows:]

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DUPAGE COUNTY PROGRAM NARRATIVE

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I. SUMMARY

The newly elected DuPage County State's Attorney, Joseph E. Birkett, has designated a team of prosecutors and an investigator to specialize in the prosecution of drug and asset forfeiture cases. This team known as the **Narcotics Prosecution Unit (NPU)**, consists of the program director, three full-time prosecutors, one asset forfeiture investigator and one full-time secretary. The prosecutors are responsible for all cases where a defendant is charged with delivery of or possession with intent to deliver either controlled substances or cannabis. The NPU also handles all calculated criminal drug conspiracy and trafficking cases. The NPU is solely responsible for all asset forfeiture cases as well. The majority of cases originate from the DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DUMEG), but the NPU also handles cases, which originate with local agencies.

The supervisor of the NPU is the program director. The supervisor is not paid from grant funds, but does prosecute a number of drug cases, coordinates all

drug prosecutions, and directly supervises the judicial and nonjudicial (administrative) asset forfeiture cases. The asset forfeiture investigator is assigned to DUMEG and participates in pro-active asset forfeiture investigations. Additionally, his assistance is offered to local police departments who are not familiar with the asset forfeiture procedures that are required by statute.

The supervisor of the NPU assigns cases. The NPU is a vertical prosecution unit. This means that once a defendant is charged, his or her case is assigned to one attorney until that case is disposed of. There are many occasions in which an attorney from the NPU gets involved in a case before it is charged. The NPU assists the agents in drafting search warrant complaints and applications for use of eavesdropping devices for their presentation before judges. Our attorneys are available 24 hours a day for this purpose, or to give any other type of aid and advice to agents.

II. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

In the past year NPU has been on the cutting edge in narcotics law enforcement. This often requires change. But through these changes the number of approved initiated cases has remained constant. This is a credit to DUMEG, e fine police departments throughout DuPage County, and the attorneys assigned to the NPU. The following is a break down of initiated cases over the past year.

During the grant period of June 17, 1996 through June 17, 1997, our office filed 178 new drug cases. Approximately 52% of those cases were charges of unlawful delivery of controlled substance or unlawful possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver. Approximately 42% of the cases were delivery of cannabis cases, or possession of cannabis with intent to deliver cases. These numbers reflect what has been going on in the drug community of DuPage County over the last year. The number of cocaine and cannabis cases has remained steady. We expect this trend to continue into next year.

During that same time period, our office disposed of 188 cases, including 88 cases (47%) where the defendants were sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections, and another 62 cases (33%) where the defendants were sentenced to the DuPage County Jail as a condition of probation. Approximately 12% of the cases resulted in a sentence of probation without jail. There were 3% of total convictions which were sentenced to some form of community service as a condition of probation. There were 9 total cases, which were findings of not guilty, or dismissals. This leaves our unit with a conviction rate in excess of 95%. This high conviction rate is a reflection of our strong partnership with law enforcement

which results in better cases.

During the period of the last grant our total number of new cases have held relatively steady. Our percentage of sentences in which defendants were imprisoned has increased from 34% to 47%. While we are proud that we have made great improvements in this area we believe it is possible to achieve our goal of 50%.

These numbers demonstrate a slight shift from the previous year. Even though cannabis has been on the rise, the majority of cases are of cocaine. The cannabis laws were recently amended to allow for much stiffer penalties. Several judges have found the legislation providing these changes to be unconstitutional. It is our hope that this statute is re-legislated to once again provide for tougher penalties. This will in turn provide more incentive for agents to make bigger cannabis cases. Cannabis use is indeed on the rise and the numbers over the last year have reflected this.

A conviction rate of over 90 % reflects good work by the agents and the attorneys of the NPU. These numbers reflect a conviction rate of 95%. The number of defendants and percentage of defendants sentenced to prison has increased. This number and percentage can increase further if the state legislature passes law to put the teeth back in the sentencing provisions of the Cannabis Control Act. We are striving to sentence 50% of all defendants to prison. This may seem like an unrealistic goal. However, it can be obtained if we have the necessary tools. One of them is mandatory sentences in the Cannabis Control Act, just as they are in the Controlled Substances Act.

In the past year the NPU has processed 81 Declarations of Forfeiture. The NPU has also obtained 22 judgements of forfeiture on Judicial Forfeitures previously filed for a total of. The total amount forfeited by the NPU was $325,887.37. This amount reflects a decrease from previous years due to the problem of courts ruling in favor of defendants on double jeopardy claims. Because the United States Supreme Court has just put this issue to rest in the government's favor, we expect this coming year to reflect an increase in forfeitures.

Our investigator assigned to DUMEG has initiated several new investigations and has been utilizing our system to collect outstanding fines from past defendants. Our attorneys have been routinely entering memorandums of judgement on each defendant at the time of sentencing. This allows us to collect on these judgements even when the defendant's case is disposed of.

NPU conducts quarterly training sessions with DUMEG. We discuss recent legal issues, procedures, goals and review cases. Additionally the NPU is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The NPU screens all cases before any

defendant is officially charged. This has provided for better quality in police work and a better quality of cases. NPU also gets DUMEG involved in every drug case that comes through the NPU that originated in local police department. This has provided for better communication, cooperation and officer safety. The federal grant has allowed the NPU to be equipped to be contacted at all times and to be available to go out in the field to support our police officers and agents.

During the 1996, our office assisted law enforcement agencies, primarily DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group, in obtaining 52 court orders permitting the use of electronic surveillance to overhear and tape record conversations. This is 14% of the total number of court authorized eavesdrops applied for in the state of Illinois. Only Cook County, which has a population 10 times DuPage County, had more with 62. Eavesdrops are an effective tool which we utilize when ever practicable. The large proportion of eavesdrops filed for by our county reflect the aggressiveness of our Narcotics Prosecution Unit. Additionally, we assisted in drafting over 50 search warrants and two seizure warrants in drug cases.

III. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

There is continuing need for federal as well as local funds. Drug use and trafficking is occurring within DuPage County at an alarming rate. The NPU recognizes that this increase in the presence of drugs is an accurate indicator of the presence of street gangs. The NPU has dedicated more time and effort in addressing the problem of street gangs. Street gangs are the main source of narcotics in DuPage County. The presence of street gangs and narcotics are no longer viewed as the "Big City's" problem. The NPU has received 190 new drug cases over the past year. This number does not include the hundreds of possession of illegal drug cases handled outside the NPU. In addition to handling new cases our attorneys have and must continue to play an integral role in the investigative stage of law enforcement. The NPU needs to provide police and agents ready legal advice, assistance in preparing search warrants and eavesdrop application and any other aid the comes up in the field.

The NPU handled 125 asset forfeiture requests over the last year. The NPU and its investigator were responsible for freezing numerous bank accounts on 2 separate large scale investigations. We have the seizure of four houses pending. The NPU with the aid of our investigator are using these innovative methods to keep on top of the drug dealers and gang members in our county. These innovative methods could not have been developed without the federal funding received. To continue these efforts it is imperative that federal funding remain

constant. Training is a must. The turnover in any prosecutor's office in addition to the ever-changing status of the law in this area requires constant education. This means symposiums, seminars and workshops for prosecutors and agents. We must keep up with the latest trends in the law and investigative techniques. Unfortunately that means dollars.

The prosecutors assigned to the NPU are highly involved in DUMEG cases early on, drafting over 50 search warrants and approximately 40 applications for the use of eavesdropping devices in the past year. These efforts greatly enhance the quality of those cases. Any cutback in funding would render it nearly impossible to provide that service to DUMEG and other law enforcement agencies. To deny these agencies the service and professionalism, in which they have become accustom would have a negative impact on narcotics enforcement in and throughout our community.

In addition to the above, we have noticed the need to initiate more training for DUMEG agents. As agents are assigned to DUMEG for two to three year periods of time, many of the agents are relatively inexperienced and would benefit greatly from instruction in testifying in court, entrapment issues, and issues involving search and seizure. We have also invited several local law enforcement officers from other local police agencies. Several departments including Addison, Downers Grove Naperville and Hanover Park have sent officers to these training seminars.

IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Narcotic Prosecution Unit are as follows:

- Enhance the quality of narcotics prosecutions in DuPage County.
- Investigate the financial background of major narcotics violators in an effort to cripple their operations and provide funds for law enforcement.
- Increase the number and amount of asset forfeitures prosecuted in DuPage County.
- Continue the outstanding cooperation that is now being realized between DUMEG, the local departments and federal agencies.
- Focus greater attention on gang abatement.

The objectives of the Narcotics Prosecution Unit are as follows:

- Utilize court-ordered eavesdrops in over 40 narcotics cases during the next 12 month period.
- Prosecute over 100 asset forfeiture cases during the next 12-month period.
- Maintain a conviction rate at or above 90 %.
- Initiate at least two major financial investigations during the next 12-month period.
- Conduct training sessions for DUMEG agents, as well as other local police agencies, covering such areas as Miranda, search warrants, search and seizure, and entrapment.

V. PROGRAM STRATEGY

The NPU's strategy for the upcoming year will largely focus on organizations responsible for bringing narcotics into this community and selling narcotics in this community. The NPU will lead this focus by confronting these organizations at two fronts. First, we shall attempt to seize as much illegal narcotics and arrest and charge as many dealers as we have in the previous year. This will slow the trafficking of narcotics into this area. Second, we shall make ery effort to uncover more large scale hidden assets as we have in the past year. Every drug dealer sells drugs to make money. Nearly all distributors are but a cog in a greater network of narcotic traffickers. If we can unveil the hidden assets of these large scale distributors we not only take away their incentive to sell drugs, but we can further arm ourselves with more funds to advance our objectives.

We must continue to hold narcotic users accountable in order to deter future demand. Demand must be decreased to lessen the incentives for present dealers and to reduce the number of future dealers. It is common knowledge that the dealers of tomorrow are probably the users of today.

The program director will continue to prosecute the nonjudicial (administrative) forfeitures, as has been the practice to date. The assistant assigned to a criminal case will continue to prosecute any judicial asset forfeiture case that arises from the same criminal investigations, as it is more efficient for the assistant who is familiar with the facts of the case to prosecute both the forfeiture and the criminal cases. We will encourage DUMEG to utilize court-ordered eavesdrops on all major cases and all cases where and informant purchases the controlled substances.

The NPU program director will continue to work with the legislature to try and amend the Cannabis Control Act, in a way that would increase penalties for

delivering or possessing large amounts of cannabis with the intent to deliver it. It is also important to try to add new substances to the established controlled substance schedules. Liquid Ecstasy (GHB) as well as the new date rape drug are among the possible fad drugs of tomorrow. It is important that we lead in the recognition of these drugs, as well as the banning of them.

VI. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The total number of forfeiture orders/declarations and value of forfeitures per month will measure the effectiveness of the asset forfeiture prosecutions. The number of convictions, as opposed to not guilty findings or dismissals, will reflect the percentage of convictions. Additionally, the number of court ordered eavesdrops will be reported to the Authority each month to monitor the success of that objective. Financial investigations must be monitored. While it is generally accepted that "pro-active" financial investigations are time-consuming and many will not produce results in the short-term, some will inevitably result in the initiation of asset forfeiture cases and the forfeiture of assets.
While the benefit of continued training for DUMEG agents and other police officers is difficult to evaluate, it should be pursued regardless of whether it is subject to any form of normal evaluation. The benefit of such training should be borne out in the improved quality of cases, and the constant realization of our target conviction rate.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Birkett. One of the things I do want to ask you, you stress—and I am going to ask you because I know you have to leave, so I will give you a couple questions—you stress communication a lot, that it is very important.

And I think there is a trend that we find through this thing that police agencies need to be talking to each other, and sometimes that doesn't always happen because they all have their own little turf or they are busy—obviously, they are all busy with what they are doing.

But have you found that if agencies start to share their communication and you find that somebody is not just active in Aurora, but is also active in Naperville, is also active in West Chicago, you have a better handle on this whole thing?

Mr. BIRKETT. There is no question that better communication, not just with each other but with prosecutors, is essential to effective law enforcement. You are seeing it with gang activity. We are realizing that we cannot just enforce the laws within our own little towns or our own little counties. We have got to communicate across the board.

And part of the problem, quite frankly, as far as drug enforcement—I am sure these officers would share that—is territorial jealousies, where police officers from one jurisdiction don't want to participate in an investigation in another jurisdiction. The legislation now allows for that, and that type of communication and enforcement is—that is essential.

Some of the ideas for legislation also come directly from the police. I will give you a couple of examples. Somebody talked about liquid Ecstasy; when we started seeing a problem with liquid Ecstasy, a GHB drug, in DuPage County, that came through law enforcement contacts, police officers who had to report to emergency rooms, saw children who were either severely—in a crisis situation on the verge of death.

They shared that information with us. We got legislation passed making liquid Ecstasy a schedule I controlled substance. So hopefully it won't be the drug of the future. But that communication came from police officers.

The Noknock bill that allows police officers to enter a drug house in certain situations without first knocking and announcing they are officers, to protect police officers, that came from communication with police officers. That was a bill that our office drafted.

So it works on several levels, not only in better investigations, better prosecutions, but improving the laws.

Mr. HASTERT. Last question: If the Federal Government could do two things that would help you in this process of stopping kids from getting on drugs and apprehending those who break the law, what would you have us do?

Mr. BIRKETT. Well, for one thing, I would ask that the funding for prosecutors remain constant, that that not be touched, because without it we would not have the success that we have in DuPage.

I would also concur with some of the remarks that were made as far as treatment. You know, from my own background and experience, you know that treatment works on a very, very small percentage of the cases, even where treatment has been attempted two, three, or four times.

And the figures—you can work with statistics all you want, but the very best treatment programs work less than 30 percent of the time, and that is usually after several attempts at treatment.

I would seriously take a look and spend some money on finding out what the best programs are and get rid of the ones that don't work. Stop funding programs that have been proven not to work, and take that money and put it in law enforcement. Spend that money where we know we have—we are effective.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you. Thank you very much for being with us today.

Mr. BIRKETT. Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. You are excused.

Mr. BIRKETT. Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Sergeant Garcia, you have been with the Illinois State Police for a lot of years, and we feel very fortunate having you on our panel today. And you are somewhat of a legend in your own time. So please proceed.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Congressman, and thank you for having me.

I have been with the Illinois State Police for some time, and the majority of my career has been working in the area of drug enforcement. I have often been asked by people in the community if we have won or lost the war on drugs, and it is unfortunate that I have to tell them that we have lost the war on drugs, just as Japan lost the war in World War II.

But like Japan, I think we can rise from those ashes if we all work together and if we all work in conjunction to win it back again. And I think we can.

In 23 years as a police officer, I have dealt with the issue of drugs from Colombia. In Aurora and surrounding areas, I have personally dealt with approximately 12 Colombian nationals who were involved in the drug trade. I also participated in approximately 25 seizures of cocaine from Colombia to the Chicago area.

As a drug agent, I work at O'Hare International Airport. That is where I participated in the drug seizures of cocaine from Colombia. The seizures ranged from 1 to 5 kilograms. The people carrying the cocaine would provide information regarding the source and destination of the cocaine. More than a few times, cocaine was destined for the Aurora area.

At the airport, I am regularly involved in seizures of large amounts of cocaine. I have also had the opportunity to investigate street-level drug dealing, cocaine from Colombia. I am presently in charge of five undercover agents. Over the past 10 years, I have supervised hundreds of police officers in the investigation of street-level dealers.

In my police work fighting drugs on the street, I dealt with 12 Colombian nationals, as I mentioned before. These 12 individuals provided inside information regarding the sale of Colombian cocaine in and around the Aurora area.

The Colombian drug cartels have a sophisticated system involving businessmen, scientists, and other professionals. They have an extensive intelligence system which surpasses police intelligence in some respects.

Specifically, police agencies need to improve information sharing at all levels of law enforcement. We also need to go to Colombia to cut off the flow. I have seen the drug problem from the international airport to the alleys of Aurora. Fighting drugs on the street will not be successful without the efforts to cut the source of drugs, specifically from Colombia.

When you cut off the source, we see a rippling effect on the street. The bigger dealers surface when the supply is cut off. This makes it easier for us to detect and make an arrest. I work with DEA agents who share my same observation of cutting off the source of cocaine from Colombia. But DEA also tells me they could use some additional support.

I appreciate the attention that Congress has given to the citizens of Aurora, and the attention you have provided in the past. I will be happy to answer any questions that you have. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Garcia follows:]

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

Submitted by: Sergeant Roy Garcia

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I appreciate the attention that Congress is giving to the citizens of Aurora, and the attention you have provided in the past. I am happy to answers any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Sergeant.

Chief Langston, chief of police, the city of Aurora. Thank you for being here today. I appreciate it.

Chief LANGSTON. Thank you, Congressman Mica and Chairman Hastert. I certainly welcome the opportunity and appreciate the opportunity to be here.

I certainly have also learned from some of the comments from the previous panel members as well, and there are a lot of thought-provoking issues, and this is a very difficult subject that affects each and everyone of us.

Aurora, IL, like many cities of similar size and demographics across the Nation, experiences a drug problem. The drug use has continued to rise, and the age of the users has continued to fall.

Drugs continue to represent a popular single commodity that has attracted the association with street gangs. Most violence within our community can be attributed to the three primary groups: drug distribution networks, inter- and intra-gang disputes, and domestic violence.

Each of these groups engages in violent activity as a separate entity and with interaction among them. Drugs can often be identified as the interactive link among the three groups, but each has its own associated causative factors as well.

Violence associated with drugs can involve supplier, distribution, and dealer networks with or without a gang component. Violence associated with gangs can also involve inter- and intra-gang disputes with or without drugs.

As the two groups interact, violence can ignite ancillary violence within each group as well. Drug networks and gangs each have established hierarchies and stakeholders within their respective groups. As we have seen within our community, as these two groups interact, violence can multiply at several levels.

The biggest impact on the drug culture in the city over the last 5 years has been the availability of crack cocaine. The sale of crack cocaine is predominately controlled by street gangs. Powder cocaine is very prevalent and can be purchased from a number of sources. Street gangs are involved in the sales of powder cocaine, but it is readily available outside the gang environment as well. Both drug and gang subcultures attempt to hide illegal narcotic sales activity with legitimate business practices.

Marijuana has been very popular for many years. Currently, the vast majority of marijuana originates from Mexico. These illicit drug networks attempt to hide their activities in suburban communities with established population groups to thwart detection and provide a connection for obtaining marijuana for local use or sales and further distribution.

With a high drug demand and an excellent distribution network, some otherwise legitimate Mexican-American families have used this to supplement their income by dealing in marijuana and/or cocaine that they obtain from relatives in Mexico. The Drug Enforcement Administration in a collaborative operation named ZORRO II uncovered several examples of this last year.

An increase in brown, black, and white heroin have also been seen in the last few years. This heroin has a high purity rate and

is snorted or injected. Substance abuse centers have reported a major increase in the treatment of white heroin cases.

Reports indicate that most of those treated are high school age and up into the early twenties. Another substance seen on the rise is LSD. This also is popular among the younger age group. Most of the cases with LSD have been high school students.

Locally, the majority of the effort of the Aurora Police Department is focused on the street-level dealer. In January 1995, the police department reorganized to emphasize geographic accountability and improve our local community problem-solving efforts.

At that time the vice and narcotic unit was combined with the gang intervention unit to form the 28-member special operations group. Since then, investigators from both units have been cross-trained in the fields of drugs and gangs.

Since 1995, the SOG has seized more than $12 million worth of narcotics, more than $750,000 in cash, made more than a 1,000 felony arrests, executed almost 200 search warrants, and taken more than 240 guns off the streets of Aurora.

It is often difficult to investigate and prosecute criminal cases against most gang members, and they can require an intense multitude of resources. Initiating a drug investigation has proven much easier than making a case for possession of a gun or for an act of violence.

The tactics used in a drug investigation can also require fewer occasions when a citizen would be required to testify against a gang member. The reluctance of people and witnesses to come forward and testify or provide investigative assistance is the single biggest deterrent to the arrest and prosecution of gang members.

The Aurora Police Department does not have the resources necessary to climb the ladder of a drug ring and identify the main supplier of illicit drugs. Although SOG has successfully completed several long-term narcotics investigations, cases of this type are generally deferred to State or Federal agencies that have the needed resources, working in cooperation with our department.

The SOG unit concentrates on identifying local hot spots for drug or gang activity through community complaints, intelligence gathering, and proactive investigations.

Operation Spring Clean has been an annual function since 1995. In the spring of each year, undercover investigators make open air purchases of crack cocaine from street gang members. Almost 80 street-level drug dealers and gang members have been incarcerated over the last 3 years.

Drugs are a source of financial support for the street gangs in Aurora. The street gangs traffic in narcotics at both the distributor and dealer levels. The gangs are able to maintain significant income for the higher ranking leaders, many of which do not maintain any other means of support.

The gang itself is also able to utilize proceeds from their drug sales for the purpose of purchasing weapons, vehicles, and in some cases bribing witnesses not to testify against them in court.

In recent years there has been a noticeable decrease in the street-level dealing by some of the major gangs. These gangs have worked to establish themselves as distributors of larger quantities

of drugs, in some cases to their rival gangs. In the gang world, business will take priority over gang rivalry.

Other gangs have, for the most part, maintained strong street-level operations and in some cases their own supply and conversion operations. This type of activity lends itself to other types of crimes like robbery, fencing stolen property, and prostitution. These street-level operations are the most damaging to our neighborhoods.

There is a relationship between drugs and gang violence. Although drugs generate financial support for the gangs, the pure hatred driven by the street gang philosophy of "us versus them" or "death before dishonor" remains the basis for the vast majority of violence.

Well over 80 percent of the street gang violence in Aurora is the product of the long-term intense hatred between the People and Folk nations. This would continue even without the drug profits. Gang violence generally does not emanate from the drug trade. The drug trade supports it.

A direct link between the drug trade and street gang violence rests with the open air drug operations. Each gang generally stays in the boundaries of their own turf when they sell drugs, thus preventing any city-wide gang wars over turf.

What these street-level dealers do provide are abundant targets for rival gangs. Drug dealers are often the targets of drive-by shootings and other acts of violence simply because they are accessible. If a rival gang is looking for revenge or to make a statement, a target is easy to find in street-level drug dealers.

These operations and the related violence have an adverse effect on neighborhoods. Even with the successes that were previously cited, additional programs and tactics are needed to affect the drug problem.

Federal and State agencies tend to deal exclusively with mid- and upper-level dealers. A large amount of resources is expended to make cases at these levels. This is a good approach and it needs to continue, but when a dealer at this level is taken down, it has only a small or short-term effect on the street.

Prevention is certainly the key to any long-term hope for a solution. These programs are needed more than ever, and at an earlier age, to teach many of the life skills that are missing in young people that turn to drugs and gangs.

Decisionmaking, self-respect, conflict resolution, personal responsibility, values, ethics, morals, and many other social skills are needed to be taught in the home. If they are not provided in the home or parental ability is lacking, we must either provide the assistance to obtain these skills or face the consequences that will manifest itself in violence among those in our society.

Intervention programs can also provide an avenue for young people to experience purpose, pleasure, interactions, and create opportunities that lead to a full and productive life. When these needs are not met, the lure of gangs and drugs are almost irresistible.

Population projections indicate that the vulnerable age group of 15–24 years will reach its highest levels by the years 2005–2010, and we must intervene before that time is upon us. As victim and offender violent age categories become younger, the indicators are

clear that parents, education, prevention, and intervention hold the key to the long-term solutions.

We must all work together. Many agencies, churches, individuals, and boards are working independently toward solutions for the same problems, drugs and gangs. These groups and individuals must form as a united, multicommunity alliance committed to mobilizing individuals and systems to take action to eliminate those conditions which foster violence, delinquency, and gangs, while promoting conditions to ensure a positive community for all.

A 35-member Aurora Community Mobilization Advisory Board has just been formed in Aurora to accomplish this task locally. The talents and resources of an entire community must be brought together to form the customized synergy necessary for positive change within our community.

Finally, we must remember that the police are not charged with making the needed changes in society, but rather we must deal with the problems of the resultant symptoms.

Some of the recommendations, if I may take your indulgence: Suppression efforts important. They are the role of the police, and often involve incarceration. However, gang and drug operations continue to flourish and influence the effects of those operations in communities outside the prison system.

If we cannot, within the controlled environment of the prison system, stop gang and drug operations, how can we hope to stop it in a free society on the streets of our communities? We only continue to supply better operators and stronger commitments to each upon their release back to our communities.

Recent examples in the local area are those of Larry Hoover, the Gangster Disciples investigations; and recent indictments, I believe, are pending against Gino Colon, due just to be released the other day. The message sent to the street is that incarceration is simply a setback and an opportunity to network.

Incarceration should be punishment and emphasize personal responsibility, while also affording rehabilitative treatment for associated problems. Unwilling participation or acceptance of treatment must also incur individual responsibility, and that must impact parole obligations and time.

No. 2, increased emphasis must be directed toward the supply networks from foreign countries and closer inter-agency collaboration to expose those networks. There must also be sanctions toward countries that do not support our efforts in a cooperative fashion to expose those drug operations. Responsibility must be taken by supply countries for their part in the operational drug networks that cause havoc within our communities nationwide.

Drug demand reduction efforts must also be emphasized within our domestic communities as well. Education and treatment programs must be the mainstays of future demand reduction of illicit drugs in our country.

Interagency cooperation and collaboration have improved, but must continue to develop further. Local communities do not have sufficient personnel, the dollars, the technology, the expertise, or the access to information to effectively eradicate high-level drug network operations within their boundaries.

Often, what a local agency considers mid to high-level operations may be inconsistent or conflict with the parameters set by a State or Federal agency. This leaves a gap in the efforts that can be mustered to confront these operations.

In addition, drug trafficking networks are well aware that operations in small to mid-size communities in close proximity to large population centers can operate much more covertly than directly in major metropolitan cities.

Fifth, prosecutions for drug offenders must be swift and they must be sure. Probation and parole must also carry swift and sure repercussions for violation of the conditions set forth in the offender's probation or parole.

This will require additional resources within the judicial and prosecutorial areas to adequately deal with repeat violators of conditions they were given in their second chance probation or parole opportunities. It is well-known among the criminal elements that the system is overloaded in many areas and cannot adequately monitor and process violations of probation or parole conditions.

And finally, our efforts must continue to adapt. As we have heard this morning from the panels, that the expertise, the technology, the funding that is available—we heard from the Ambassador—and billions and billions of dollars.

They adapt their networks when we adapt what we do to respond to those, and they seem to be much quicker and better at that. And those are the actions that we have to change. That must begin at a national level.

Thank you for allowing me to come.

[The prepared statement of Chief Langston follows:]

Congressional Field Hearing - Congressman J. Dennis Hastert

Testimony by Larry L. Langston, Chief of Police Aurora, Illinois

Date: September 22, 1997 Location: Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

Aurora, Illinois, like many cities of similar size and demographics across the nation experiences a drug problem. Drug use has continued to rise and the age of users has continued to fall. Drugs continue to represent a "popular" saleable commodity that has attracted the association with "street gangs." Most violence within our community can be attributed to three primary groups: drug distribution networks; inter and intra gang disputes; and domestic violence. Each of these groups engages in violent activity as a separate entity and with interaction among them. Drugs can often be identified as the interactive link among the three groups, but each has its own associated causative factors as well. Violence associated with drugs can involve supplier, distribution, and dealer networks with or without a gang component. Violence associated with gangs can also involve inter and intra gang disputes with or without drugs. As the two groups interact violence can ignite ancillary violence within each group as well. Drug networks and gangs each have established hierarchies and stakeholders within their respective groups. As we have seen within our community, as these two groups interact violence can multiply at several levels.

The biggest impact on the drug culture in the city over the last five years has been the availability of crack cocaine. The sale of crack cocaine is predominately controlled by street gangs. Powder cocaine is very prevalent and can be purchased from a number of sources. Street gangs are involved in the sales of powder cocaine but it is readily available outside the gang

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environment. Both drug and gang subcultures attempt to "hide" illegal narcotic sales activity with legitimate business practices.

Marijuana has been very popular for many years. Currently, the vast majority of marijuana originates from Mexico. Illicit distribution networks have become established through Aurora. These illicit drug networks attempt to hide their activities in suburban communities with established population groups to thwart detection and provide a connection for obtaining marijuana for local use or sales and further distribution. With a high drug demand and an excellent distribution network, some otherwise legitimate Mexican American families have used this to supplement their income by dealing in marijuana and/or cocaine that they obtain from relatives in Mexico. The Drug Enforcement Administration in a collaborative operation named "ZORRO II" uncovered several examples of this last year.

An increase in brown, black and white heroin have also been seen in the last few years. This heroin has a high purity rate and is snorted or injected. Substance abuse centers have reported a major increase in the treatment of white heroin cases. Reports indicate that most of those treated are of high school age up to the early twenties. Another substance seen on the rise is LSD. This also is popular among the younger age group. Most of the cases with LSD have been high school students.

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Testimony by Larry L. Langston, Chief of Police Aurora, Illinois

Date: September 22, 1997 Location: Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

Locally, the majority of the effort of the Aurora Police Department is focused on the street level dealer. In January of 1995, the Police Department reorganized to emphasize geographic accountability and improve problem-solving efforts. At that time the Vice and Narcotic Unit was combined with the Gang Intervention Unit to form the twenty-eight member Special Operations Group (SOG). Since then, investigators from both units have been cross trained in the fields of drugs and gangs. Since 1995, the SOG has seized more than $12,000,000 worth of narcotics, more than $750,000 in cash, made more than 1,000 felony arrests, executed almost 200 search warrants and taken more than 240 guns off the streets of Aurora.

It is often difficult to investigate and prosecute criminal cases against most gang members and can require an intense multitude of resources. Initiating a drug investigation has proven much easier than making a case for possession of a gun or for an act of violence. The tactics used in a drug investigation can also require fewer occasions when a citizen would be required to testify against a gang member. The reluctance of people and witnesses to come forward and testify or provide investigative assistance is the single biggest deterrent to the arrest and prosecution of gang members.

The Aurora Police Department does not have the resources necessary to climb the ladder of a drug ring and identify the main supplier of illicit drugs. Although SOG has successfully completed several long term narcotics investigations, cases of this type are generally deferred to

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state or federal agencies that have the needed resources working in cooperation with our department. The SOG unit concentrates on identifying local "hot spots" for drug/gang activity through community complaints, intelligence gathering and proactive investigations. Operation Spring Clean has been an annual function since 1995. In the spring of each year, undercover investigators make open air purchases of crack cocaine from street gang members. Almost eighty street level drug dealers and gang members have been incarcerated over the last three years.

Drugs are a source of financial support for the street gangs in Aurora. The street gangs traffic in narcotics at both the distributor and dealer levels. The gangs are able to maintain significant income for the higher ranking leaders, many of which do not maintain any other means of support. The gang itself is also able to utilize proceeds from their drug sales for the purpose of purchasing weapons, vehicles, and in some cases bribing witnesses not to testify against them in court.

In recent years there has been a noticeable decrease in the street level dealing by some of the major gangs. These gangs have worked to establish themselves as distributors of larger quantities of drugs, in some cases to their rival gangs. In the gang world, business will take priority over gang rivalry. Other gangs have for the most part maintained strong street level

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operations and in some cases their own supply and conversion operations. This type of activity lends itself to other types of crimes like robbery, fencing stolen property and prostitution. These street level operations are the most damaging to neighborhoods.

There is a relationship between drugs and gang violence. Although drugs generate financial support for the gangs, the pure hatred driven by the street gang philosophy of "us versus them" and "death before dishonor" remains the basis for the vast majority of violence. Well over 80% of the street gang violence in Aurora is the product of the long term intense hatred between the "People and Folk" nations. This would continue even without the drug profits. Gang violence generally does not emanate from the drug trade. The drug trade supports it.

A direct link between the drug trade and street gang violence rests with the open air drug operations. Each gang generally stays in the boundaries of their own turf when they sell drugs, thus preventing any city wide gang wars over turf. What these street level dealers do provide are abundant targets for rival gangs. Drug dealers are often the targets of drive by shootings and other acts of violence simply because they are accessible. If a rival gang is looking for revenge or to make a statement, a target is easy to find in street level drug dealers. These operations and the related violence have an adverse effect on neighborhoods and are a substantial source of citizen complaints about a substandard quality of life. Even with the successes that were

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previously cited, additional programs and tactics are needed to effect the drug problem. Federal and state agencies tend to deal exclusively with mid and upper level dealers. A large amount of resources is expended to make cases at these levels. This is a good approach and needs to continue, but when a dealer at this level is taken down, it has only a small or short term effect on the street.

Prevention is certainly the key to any hope for a long term solution. These programs are needed more than ever and at an earlier age to teach many of the life skills that are missing in young people that turn to drugs and gangs. Decision making, self respect, conflict resolution, personal responsibility, values, ethics, morals and many other social skills are needed to be taught, in the home. If they are not provided in the home or parental ability is lacking, we must either provide the assistance to obtain these skills or face the consequences that will manifest itself in violence among those in our society. Intervention programs can also provide an avenue for young people to experience purpose, pleasure, interactions and create opportunities that lead to a full and productive life. When these needs are not met, the lure of gangs and drugs are almost irresistible. Population projections indicate that the vulnerable age group of 15-24 yrs will reach its highest levels by 2005-2010 and we must intervene before that time is upon us. As victim/offender violent age categories become younger the indicators are clear that parents, education, prevention, and intervention hold the key to long term solutions.

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We must all work together. Many agencies, churches, individuals and boards are working independently toward solutions for the same problems--drugs and gangs. These groups and individuals must form as a united, multi community alliance committed to mobilizing individuals and systems to take action to eliminate those conditions which foster violence, delinquency and gangs while promoting conditions to ensure a positive community for all. A 35-member Aurora Community Mobilization Advisory Board has been formed in Aurora to accomplish this task locally. The talents and resources of an entire community must be brought together to form the customized synergy necessary for positive change within any community.

Finally we must remember that the police are not charged with making the needed changes in society, but rather we must deal with the problems of the resultant symptoms.

Recommendations:

1. Suppression efforts are an important role of the police and often involve incarceration. However, gang and drug operations continue to flourish and influence the effects of those operations in communities outside the prison system. If we cannot, within the controlled environment of the prison system, stop gang and drug operations how can we hope to stop it in a free society. We only continue to supply better operators and stronger commitments to each upon their release back to our communities. Example: Larry Hoover Gangster Disciple investigation and the recent indictments of Gino Colon due to

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be released just the other day. The message sent to the street is that incarceration is simply a setback and an opportunity to network. Incarceration should be punishment and emphasize personal responsibility, while also affording rehabilitative treatment for associated problems. Unwilling participation or acceptance of treatment must also incur individual responsibility ie; no parole.

2. Increased emphasis must be directed toward the supply networks from foreign countries and closer inter-agency collaboration to expose these networks. There must also be sanctions toward countries that do not support our efforts in a cooperative fashion to expose these drug operations. Responsibility must be taken by supply countries for their part in the operational drug networks that cause havoc within our communities nationwide.

3. Drug demand reduction efforts must also be emphasized within our domestic communities as well. Education and treatment programs must be the mainstays of future demand reduction of illicit drugs.

4. Inter-agency cooperation and collaboration have improved but must continue to develop further. Local communities do not have sufficient personnel, dollars, technology, expertise, and access to information to effectively eradicate high-level drug network operations within their boundaries. Often, what a local agency considers mid-high level

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operations may be inconsistent or conflict with the parameters set by a state or federal agency. This leaves a gap in the efforts that can be mustered to confront these operations. In addition, drug trafficking networks are well aware that operations in small to mid-size communities in close proximity to large population centers can operate much more covertly than directly in major metropolitan cities.

5. Prosecutions for drug offenders must be swift and sure. Probation and parole must also carry swift and sure repercussions for violation of the conditions set forth in the offenders probation or parole. This will require additional resources within the judicial and prosecutorial areas to adequately deal with repeat violators of conditions they were given in their "second chance" probation or parole opportunities. It is well known among the criminal elements that the system is overloaded in many areas and cannot adequately monitor and process violations of probation and parole.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Chief Langston. Let me open with you and ask you just a couple questions.

One of the panelists, as you know, is a young man who was a gang member in Illinois—in Aurora, and talked about his conversion, and obviously some special treatment—special in a derogatory—special treatment by your police force and how they treat or how they accept these people who want to change.

Is that any training, or what is happening there? It is interesting.

Chief LANGSTON. We have worked very long and hard within this community with the Prayer Coalition, which you heard from. We have also established the Aurora Community Mobilization Advisory Group, which is an outgrowth of people concerned in this community.

We have tried to provide a multifaceted approach that cannot be keyed strictly on enforcement. And I agree with Mr. Osby's comments that much of this activity that draws gang members has to do with respect and money. That is really true.

What they learn in the homes are also things that are affected by pastoral care. And the comments that we heard from our panel this morning is that there needs to be more emphasis on the prevention efforts, and what is being done.

We have worked diligently within our community with the pastoral sector as well as the schools and every other aspect that we possibly can within our community and, individually, neighborhoods to bring people involved because it is that holistic approach within the community that really solves the problem.

And you are correct, one of the panel members mentioned that you must begin at the local level, and that is true. But the critical support that needs to be there does require the county, the State, and the Federal level as well.

Mr. HASTERT. One of the things that you mentioned is that some of these gangs become so sophisticated that they have their own supply and distribution. Is that what you said?

Chief LANGSTON. That is correct.

Mr. HASTERT. So they are getting the supply from Mexico itself?

Chief LANGSTON. Well, Mexico generally has been known to be large suppliers of marijuana. They are also known to be a large network through which drugs enter this country.

Mr. HASTERT. It is a conduit. Right.

Chief LANGSTON. That is just simply another manner of adapting to what law enforcement does or the United States policy does in regards to the other countries involved in illicit drug trafficking into this country.

Mr. HASTERT. Sergeant Garcia, one of the things you said is that you can actually see a difference on the streets when we are working with other countries—Colombia, Peru, others, Mexico—to get tough on drugs and actually stop the flow.

So you think that there needs to be a balanced approach, both supply and demand?

Mr. GARCIA. Oh, definitely. Without a doubt there definitely needs to have some sort of balance there. In the past, what the Colombians had done to drive up the prices, they would hold back some of the supply so they can bring the prices up a little higher

until they made a pretty good profit, and then they would flood the market with more cocaine.

Every effort that we had to try to go ahead and stop that, they were always 1 to 10 steps ahead of us. Their intelligence network knows how drugs are being marketed. They know how we in the United States have a hunger for them.

So they will bring in certain groups and target certain groups or areas to market those drugs. Again, they have a sophisticated system. They will do a marketing study, just as MacDonald's or Burger King would do, to see if that area is conducive to make money.

The people that we are dealing with out there, they know that the United States and the small communities are a creature of habit. So what they will do is they will go out and study us and see where our faults are, and that is when they will attack.

Mr. HASTERT. For both our panelists up here, just a pretty stock question, but I think it is pretty important: What things can the Federal Government continue or do? You know, we are working on a drug strategy right now and reauthorization of the ONDCP, and trying to put, you know, the seven or eight authorizing committees out there and the seven or eight appropriations committees—we are trying to focus down and say, somebody has to be accountable for this. Somebody has to order it and somebody has to be accountable.

If you had two things that you would want to incorporate in the drug strategy, what would it be? Both of you.

Chief LANGSTON. If I had two things——

Mr. HASTERT. You could have 10 things, but 2 things so I can remember. All right?

Chief LANGSTON. That is difficult. If I was limited to just two, I think probably the ones that would have the greatest impact that cost dollars would be the supply network system.

Mr. HASTERT. The what?

Chief LANGSTON. The supply network system of the drugs that are coming from foreign countries into this country. And that network system has to go outside of our boundaries as well as inside. That is something that is very expensive and costly, but is best done and identified at the national level.

Mr. HASTERT. So to interdict?

Chief LANGSTON. Exactly. To interdict in that—the supply network system.

I think probably the second one that also costs money would be—and it has been mentioned already—is to fund—identify criteria that looks at the qualitative aspect, identifies what the results are, the outcomes, to programs that are receiving money.

That is critical so that we are funding with tax dollars those programs that we know work. And there has to be accountability for that.

Mr. HASTERT. So we are getting a bang for our buck, in other words.

Chief LANGSTON. Exactly. A bang for your buck.

The third one, that doesn't cost money, I think has to do with our leadership that must begin at the local level all the way through, and the message that we send on how we talk about principles and values in our local communities.

Mr. HASTERT. Sergeant Garcia.

Mr. GARCIA. Well, one of the things I would like to see is us to have access to a better intelligence networking system throughout the United States.

Mr. HASTERT. Could I stop you right there for a second? One of the things that we are trying to work with, of course, DEA and CIA and Border Patrol and Customs and INS, they all have their own intelligence. But one of the things—and they want to keep it separate, for their own reasons. And some of them are good.

There isn't a coordination. And are you saying we need to be better able to coordinate that intelligence?

Mr. GARCIA. Definitely. It is unfortunate that there is such a dichotomy in law enforcement, as was mentioned here. You can publish as many intelligence information bulletins that you have out there, but if that information, which really starts at the local level, those people that are working on the streets on a daily basis, if that information doesn't flow up or the information flowing back down, and it just ends up sitting there.

Then what you leave is major holes in the system in which these drug dealers know how to manipulate. They know that law enforcement historically does not share that type of information. They know they are very territorial.

What had come to light when the gang problem started to surface in the early 1990's was that gang investigators—at that time Chief Langston was running it—were sharing more and more information across county lines because of the mobility of the gangs.

What I was able to do, working with my drug agents, was to take that same concept and utilize that in the drug enforcement area. That was unheard of. It was unheard of that Roy Garcia and the North Central Narcotic Task Force shared information. Yes, we do, because we found that we could not handle this problem alone.

And that is what I am talking about. We can have—each agency can have their own intelligence network, but unless we coordinate it together and bring that information down to the street level, and vice versa, it is just going to sit there.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

Congressman Mica.

Mr. MICA. On the issue of cooperation of Federal agents with local and State authorities, are there any specific areas of improvement that you would recommend to us, anything that isn't being done as far as utilization of resources, cooperation, other than what you have already mentioned, at both levels?

Chief LANGSTON. I think that we have made tremendous strides in that regard in the last year or two. And the contacts that I have had both with the DEA and also with the Illinois State Police, the North Central Narcotics Task Force, and the interaction we have had with those groups has improved tremendously and appears to keep moving forward. And we need to continue that.

We also know that they only have so many resources, as well. And more and more problems, as they develop in local communities, are going to force and require those smaller communities to look toward the county, the State, primarily, and the Federal task forces to assist them because, again, you are going to see adapting

of drug networks that are going to move to those areas that seem to be better for their covert operations.

I think personnel and resources at the Federal level regarding our efforts in the drug fight is where it is going to be needed in the future.

Mr. MICA. Any particular agency, maybe, Sergeant Garcia, that could use more resources? DEA? FBI? Customs? Do you see any weak links in the Federal chain?

Mr. GARCIA. I would like to see an increase in DEA. And I would also like to see the DEA participate more in local task force programs. The DEA usually has their own programs where they will ask like the Aurora Police Department to participate in, or the Illinois State Police to participate in.

We have 102 counties, and each county here in the State of Illinois is a participant somehow in a State-managed task force. And I believe there is probably only one, and that is in the Chicago area, where you have DEA participation.

I think if they assign Federal agents to those task forces, what you will be able to do, besides get the intelligence information, but you will be able to bring in some expertise and some quality law enforcement, quality—what I mean by is that there are investigative techniques to be able to go back after these groups, as far as going after racketeering, conspiracy, and utilizing some of the Federal laws that are out there.

If we can work hand in hand with each other and get away from statistically dominated programs, I think we can have an effect.

Mr. MICA. Chief.

Chief LANGSTON. I would certainly agree. DEA is certainly one of the agencies. I believe also Customs is another one. And the emphasis that we place on our borders, that also was mentioned this morning regarding truck trafficking from Lieutenant Colonel Kinney, I believe.

Those efforts are important, getting those supply networks into the country as well. So I think those are key components.

Mr. MICA. One of the other areas—I am one of these zero tolerance kind of guys and, I always cite Singapore and Saudi Arabia. They have almost zero incidence of drug problems. They don't even have to spend money on education and prevention because they are so strict from the enforcement and prosecution standpoint.

You spoke a little bit about the problem you have just been bogged down by the sheer volume of cases. And you said that some of them you are bucking to the Federal level? Did I catch that?

Are some of these being—you are asking for assistance in the prosecution because you can't handle the load. Is that the case, and is that—are they responding? Maybe you could comment.

Chief LANGSTON. What I was referring my comments to, that at the—sometimes our priorities at the local level are certainly different, as are many communities. They may be different to the county as well as the State.

But in some manner, eventually they are all going to affect the county and the State level as well; Federal also, as these problems become larger and larger, as local communities have less and less resources to deal with a much more severe problem that seems to be growing regarding the drug networking, that makes it very dif-

ficult for them to support that. You are then going to have pockets of more smaller communities that are looking toward the State and the Federal level for assistance.

We find very often that the priorities or the criteria at the Federal level dealing with prosecutions sometimes are very serious felonies that simply cannot be dealt with due to the caseload that is already taken on. And the system simply cannot handle it.

And that is very well-known throughout the criminal element at both the State and Federal level.

Mr. MICA. But if you are asking the feds to take over, participate, or prosecute a case, are you getting a positive response and are they able to participate?

Chief LANGSTON. Yes. We—as Roy mentioned, we have assigned an officer with the DEA that does work with the task force, and we do get good response. But again, they still have only so many personnel and so many dollars that they can apply in the northern Illinois area that certainly does have its share of a problem.

Mr. MICA. The other area that I wanted to discuss is, I come from centural Florida and we have had, sort of a normal drug trafficking problem and drug abuse problem. The last few years, we have experienced an incredible deluge of cocaine and now heroin. Heroin is coming in in big quantities, and it is price-competitive with crack.

And I think you indicated you are seeing something similar. And the other problem we have is it is among our young people. It is—we have had—we match—I think Dade County, which is Miami—Los Angeles in heroin deaths among our young people, and we are skyrocketing in cocaine and also designer drugs.

And I think your testimony or experience has been the same up here. Is that correct?

Chief LANGSTON. That is correct. We are certainly seeing an increase in the heroin market as well as some of the—primarily LSD, some of the other drugs that you referred to as designer drugs.

Mr. MICA. Are the designer drugs being locally produced, or coming out of the Midwest, or where?

Mr. GARCIA. From the intelligence information that we have been able to gather, it is a combination of. Apparently where we first start to see them surface is in college communities where you have an influx of people coming from different areas. At one time, the LSD trade was isolated into the California area and came this way.

But what you are seeing, and if you ever get on the Internet, you can find recipes for some of these designer drugs there. And it seems that some of these students are into trying that. KAHT is an example, which was produced in northern Michigan, that is a drug that is starting to be used in this area.

So we will see different pockets of groups that will try some of these different drugs—maybe only once, but the formula is still out there.

The other problem is that the use is starting to—or I shouldn't say decrease, but it is starting to be used among younger students versus the older students. And that is the problem in the rise that I am starting to see, that it is starting in eighth grade, as was indicated here earlier with the other problems, that we are getting younger kids involved.

Mr. MICA. What about the source of heroin? We have some now coming in from Colombia—actually, more coming, I think, from Colombia, and the brown, which has been from Mexico, sort of about the same, a slight increase.

Are you seeing the same pattern of activity?

Chief LANGSTON. Yes. Yes, we are seeing the same pattern. It seems to be the—what is generally called a China White to be the most popular. We are also seeing the levels of purity going up.

And that, of course, affects price and the economic issues that go with any other commodity, in that that market can very much be manipulated and controlled and very well adapted to what locations need to have what supply during that whole network and distribution process, which is extremely difficult for a local or State-level agency to deal with.

Mr. MICA. I guess just one other question: I saw this DuPage County program. I didn't hear all of the verbal testimony, but read the written testimony. That looks like it is fairly successful, this narcotics prosecution unit effort, that you are familiar with it. Is your personal evaluation as good as the statistical information we have here?

Chief LANGSTON. The information that Mr. Birkett was referring to as far as the DuPage County drug prosecution effort?

Mr. MICA. What is your opinion?

Chief LANGSTON. Yes. Well, we have participated with that statewide grand jury. That also is part of that program, and the unit that they have put together dealing with drug prosecutions. And we have—only a portion of our city is in the DuPage County area, and we have had good success with those prosecutions.

Mr. MICA. Can you see a change? Hold old is this? The statistics I have are 1996–1997. Is it only a year old?

Chief LANGSTON. Yes.

Mr. MICA. A year old?

Chief LANGSTON. It is only about a year old, and I am not familiar with the numbers.

Mr. MICA. But you are seeing some success from this?

Chief LANGSTON. Well, I think it is too early to say that the results are what they are. I think we need to have a longer time to look at that. But we—they do tend to show a positive direction, so that is encouraging.

Mr. GARCIA. If I can comment on that, by having an opportunity to work in other States and work in drug investigations—I will give you Michigan as an example—in their drug task force units that they have there, which are managed—local drug task forces, which are managed by the State, they assign a prosecutor from that county right to that drug unit specifically.

That is something we don't see here because of lack of funding or for whatever reason, is assigning a prosecutor who will take those cases into court and is familiar with the investigations right from their birth. It also helps with the investigative unit as far as getting guidance on the different type of investigative techniques that are out there.

This prosecutor also has the ability to not only prosecute on a State level, but prosecute on a Federal level as well. And it has been very successful.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Mica, for being with us today all the way from Florida and then back to Washington this afternoon.

One last question, kind of a related area but a little off: We are about to pass legislation in the House that sells our encryption software overseas. And I have a personal feeling that that is probably not the right thing to do.

What is your attitude? A lot of this intelligence and the encryption that you can—we can pick up today or use so that somebody else can't pick it up is pretty much pretty important, if we have the advantage.

If we allow foreign countries, or those people who are moving heroin or marijuana or whatever through the system, to be able to pick up our encryption, do you think that is a problem, or is it not a problem?

Mr. GARCIA. Congressman, if I can just mention real quick, when it comes to the electronic industry, everybody that is really involved with that is going to build a better mousetrap every single day.

Whether we sell it now or whether they obtain it later is really not the problem. It is what we do with the information. I will give you an example, utilizing sports. Vince Lombardi had so many plays in his repertoire, and they knew that he was going to run that play. But he executed it so well that they couldn't stop him.

And I think if we do the same thing and we execute our plans real well and take that intelligence information, I think we can have an impact.

Mr. HASTERT. Very good. I think, with that, we will stop.

Thank you very much. Thanks for being with us today. And I want to thank all of our witnesses for the testimony they gave. And the Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:40 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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