

The Department of Justice estimates that approximately 55 persons would take advantage of this amendment at an additional cost of \$330,000 per year. Neither the existing scholarship program nor the expansion are an entitlement, and the cost of the scholarships can be covered under the appropriation for the existing Public Safety Officers benefit program. What an incredible service this will provide.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has chosen Police Officers Memorial Day to pass these three bills. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can acknowledge a small measure of our tremendous gratitude and support for these heroes and their families. I thank my colleagues for their support of these bills.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

The able Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

DETERRING TEEN SMOKING: WHAT WORKS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this coming Monday, the Senate will begin historic debate on tobacco legislation. This debate represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reduce teenage smoking, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save lives.

The window of opportunity opened by last year's tobacco settlement is closing fast, and that means we simply have to keep this process moving. We have to pass a comprehensive bill and we have to pass it now.

A comprehensive bill, Mr. President. That means we have to raise the price of tobacco. But it means much more than that alone. It means a public education campaign. It means limits on tobacco advertising. It means punishing tobacco companies if, in the future, we do not meet the goals we set for reducing teen smoking. Finally, it means enhanced enforcement so a black market does not develop.

There will be a great temptation as we go through this lengthy debate for us to get sidetracked over the coming weeks into debates on countless side issues. It is important that we not give in to that temptation. We need to keep our eyes firmly on a much larger goal, and that goal is saving the lives of America's children from tobacco and from illegal drugs. Frankly, the only way we can achieve this goal is to pass a comprehensive bill, a comprehensive bill that is focused on our one goal, reducing tobacco and drug use among our young people. For the reasons that I will outline in a moment, a piecemeal approach simply will not work. A piecemeal approach will fail.

I commend the majority leader, Senator LOTT, for his leadership in bring-

ing this matter to the Senate floor. Now it is up to all of us to make the most of that opportunity. That is what I want to talk about today.

When a problem generates this much attention, we have to be all the more vigilant to make sure we pay attention to the light rather than to the heat; the facts, not the rhetoric.

Fact: 3,000 children start to smoke every day.

Fact: 1,000 of them are going to die early as a result of that.

Fact: We now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save these lives, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do this through comprehensive legislation to reduce teenage smoking.

Fact: The number of legislative days we have left in this session in which to do this is rapidly shrinking.

Fact: If we do not do this now, it may never happen. The opportunity may never come again.

Fact: 1,000 early deaths caused every day by smoking. We need to act and we need to act now.

These are the facts. We cannot allow tobacco companies to lie about these facts or to obscure the fact that tobacco and illegal drugs together pose America's greatest public health challenge to our children. This is a huge challenge to our future. And we need a truly comprehensive approach to meet this challenge of tobacco and of illegal drugs.

What I would like to do over the next few minutes is examine some of the elements of the proposed tobacco legislation in a serious, and maybe even clinical, manner in an effort to try to determine which approaches work best in reducing smoking among our young people.

What works, Mr. President? What works to reduce teenage smoking? That is the key question. In fact, it is the only question that we should focus on as we debate tobacco legislation.

Let me begin by discussing the most controversial element of the various proposed tobacco bills—a tax on cigarettes.

Mr. President, the question of whether tobacco taxes will work in reducing teen smoking comes down to the question of how sensitive teen smokers are to changes in price. The way the economists phrase this question is: How elastic is the demand? How responsive is it? Does it go down when prices go up?

Mr. President, writing tobacco legislation would be a very easy task if the demand were very sensitive and responsive to prices. Then all we would need to do is increase the cost of a pack of cigarettes, and kids would stop smoking and their lives would be saved, and that would be it.

Regrettably, it is not that simple. Reputable individuals and organizations in the field of public health have studied this very question and are certainly far from a consensus.

In 1991, a study published in the Journal of Health Economics concluded that there is no statistically signifi-

cant correlation between cigarette prices and youth smoking. However, a National Cancer Institute expert panel stated in 1993 that "a substantial increase in tobacco excise taxes may be the single most effective measure for decreasing tobacco consumption," and that "an excise tax reduces consumption by children and teenagers at least as much as it reduces consumption by adults."

Mr. President, the confusion continues. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have data indicating that in five of the six States that raised cigarette taxes between 1993 and 1995 that teen smoking actually increased.

Yet, two reports published by the Surgeon General in 1994 and 1998 reached the opposite conclusion—that young people are at least as sensitive to price increases as adults.

Take all of these different findings together and they raise very serious questions about a tobacco-fighting strategy that is anchored solely by tax increases, or by an increase in the cost of cigarettes.

Here is what I think, Mr. President, based on my experience in working over the years against illegal drugs, based on my experience in working against driving under the influence of alcohol, that crusade, that effort: There is no one single remedy. There is no one single solution. I believe that raising tobacco costs will have an impact, but will only have an impact if that is included as part of the comprehensive approach, if the increase in tobacco prices is accompanied by advertising, by counteradvertising, by pulling down the pro-tobacco advertising on TV, by strict law enforcement. All of these things, I believe, have to come together. You cannot succeed in this effort without that kind of comprehensive approach. Raising the cost of tobacco will help, but it is simply not enough. To meet this kind of challenge, we need a comprehensive approach, one that will harness many different elements in the common purpose of saving children's lives.

In addition to raising the price of cigarettes, what else must we include in that comprehensive package? I outlined that a moment ago, but I would like to talk now in a little more detail about some of the other things that I think are necessary to do in addition to increasing the price of cigarettes.

Public education. Let's start with public education. My own experience with public education on health issues, Mr. President, would indicate to me that it does, in fact, work. Let me give you and my other colleagues an example.

Over the last several decades, we in this country have made tremendous progress in making our streets safer from alcohol-impaired drivers. Back when I was in the Ohio State Senate, I wrote legislation toughening our State's law on driving under the influence. But even more important than