

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 23, 1999 LB 148

one additional thing that...that might be of interest to you, the grant program that is coming behind Senator Byars' program under this setup that's being suggested to you today is also going to receive funds from the tobacco settlement money. So there will be, shortly, hopefully, I think Senator Jensen indicated maybe later this spring even, an initial influence of \$13 million into the...from the Tobacco Trust money, and that will go into the grant program. The grant program actually has two sources of funds, one the Health Care Trust Fund and the other is the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. So, as between all these programs, there are huge amounts of monies here to spend wisely in one way or another, and I hope we would all agree that Senator Byars' bill is one of the wisest ways to spend that money. That's the proposal for your consideration. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Beutler. I have been in conversation with Senator Beutler and others who have brought this amendment to you. I certainly concur that this will enable a very, very worthwhile program to be...to be funded adequately to get the respite system set up and off the ground, and I don't think we need any further debate on the worthwhileness of the program. I think almost unanimously the members of this body have felt that it was a worthwhile program. But I just stand for a moment to lend my support to the funding mechanism so that we will not be taking any more dollars out of General Fund and to certainly encourage you to support the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I just want to put just a little word of caution. First of all, yes, we do have 17 million, another 50...50 million coming yet this year, hopefully the year after that. I don't know how long this will go on. This...these are IGT funds, Intergovernmental Transfer Funds, that really come back to the state from the federal government. And the whole establishment of this fund was to not spend down on the principal but to live off the interest of this fund, and I think the Legislature last year really did a monumental decision when they decided that this is