

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next item to the bill.

CLERK: Next amendment. Senator Dwite Pedersen, AM1563, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Dwite Pedersen, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I'd like to withdraw that and file it on the bottom, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn and put on the bottom.

CLERK: Next amendment, Mr. President. Senator Smith, AM1884. (Legislative Journal page 1766.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, to open on AM1884 to LB 407.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This amendment deals with tobacco settlement funds, and those that are still available, believe it or not. And it addresses some issues that I think will bring about some equity across the state in terms of minority health. There are a handful of federally qualified health centers throughout the state. And the subject ones right now are, basically, two in Omaha that receive a combination of...and are scheduled to receive a combination of \$1.4 million per year. And I'm not seeking to change that. I'm seeking to bring about some equity for health centers that serve underserved areas. If you look at the amendment, it's one page. And it proposes \$225,000 in the first year, \$350,000 in the second year, for federally qualified health centers in a congressional district containing communities with medically underserved areas or populations or health profession shortage areas designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration. And there are a lot of designations out there, but this is the subject one. And the reality is, you have a handout coming around that shows three of the health centers that stand to be impacted by that. However, the language in the amendment is such that it will not be a