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LB 332

I'll give the rest of it to Senator McDonald, if she wants it. Senator McDonald handed out the form on the cost, service type, service delivery, and estimated costs of funding for the year of '05 shortfall, and it says how many hours and what they're charging per hour. I want to just give you a short definition of what goes on in them hours: \$75 an hour is for individual, \$90 an hour for family, \$80 an hour for group, and \$150 for assessments. That is the over...that's not what a therapist is getting. This is the overall cost, including overhead. It's simple, but I know a couple questions I've had now about that, if that's what therapists make. It is not. That also includes overhead. With that, I'd give the rest of my time to Senator McDonald, if she wants it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator McDonald.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. In my original bill, when I was to hopefully take the money out of the advertising fund, much to my dismay I had someone out in the lobby that said they couldn't support my amendment, because the mentality is if you take dollars from the advertising fund you will have less dollars...less people gambling, and if you have less people gambling there will be less dollars for the trust fund. And I was very appalled with that because, let's face it, we need to take care of our compulsive gamblers first before we take care of anyone in the trust fund. So why have money for the compulsive gamblers? Let all the money go to the trust fund. That is not the way we handle things in Nebraska. We need to take the dollars that the gamblers gamble to fund compulsive gambling. It is not fair to fund the trust fund over the backs of compulsive gamblers because, let's face it, they probably spend more dollars gambling than anyone else. So if this comes to a constitutional amendment that we take dollars from advertising, we will have opposition. Because those that are getting money on this end certainly don't want to give up any additional dollars. We need to be aware of that and address that when it comes time to draft the constitutional amendment. Thank you.