

February 28, 1990 LB 315, 1142

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Hefner, or no, Senator Coordsen, would you answer a question for me, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Of course.

SENATOR NELSON: In the last sentence of your amendment, or two sentences, and if there are not enough funds available, then such benefits shall be appropriated from the General Fund. Is that our General Fund of our state budget?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yes.

SENATOR NELSON: Whoa, whoa, do you know what you're asking for?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yup, I think. Could I...I've got my light on next, so...

SENATOR NELSON: I hope you do. Senator Wesely mentioned the treatment was five or \$6,000 a month for in-house treatment. As you know, I had LB 1142 in front of the Revenue Committee and I think it's still sitting there. I simply wanted to get some help in rehabilitation and services for juveniles, so I've just been down through the cost of treatment. I have not found anyplace that is less than \$7,000. We're talking up to 11,000 and \$12,000 for a 30-day treatment. I can name the places here. When...and my bill was very limited to juveniles because if I opened it up and matching Medicaid as Senator Wesely said, we're opening up a big, big can of worms here and untold number of people that may or may not qualify. I know the intentions are good. Senator Coordsen, Senator Hefner and...but what I find in this and the cost of treatment and what is available and insurance base part, insurance doesn't...most of these unemployed people wouldn't have insurance in the first place, so for our to say that it would come from the General Fund, I could see the biggest can of worms opened up here that you could possibly imagine. I could visualize four, five, \$6 million if you really wanted to take advantage of it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body,