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government looking at this. And I think we all ought to be watchful of that. If you'll remember, the tobacco settlement was done by state attorney generals on their own, without the help of federal government. Now the federal government says, we want some of that money too, and that's the reason for the hold and that's the reason there's not going to be as much money flowing into this trust fund at this time as we would have anticipated even in December. But, once again, I think this is an appropriate use for that, but I am also going to be very leery of doing any great amount of this type of thing beyond what we are doing here today in order that we preserve what we have and utilize it as we originally intended a year ago. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to not belabor the point but also just to add, as a member of the Health and Human Services Committee last year, we did talk quite a bit about whether we would protect this fund and allow people who have an interest in public health issues to apply for programs and very important educational activities and the things that we need to be doing as a state in the public health area. And I was asked repeatedly by a lot of groups and organizations, will the state protect this fund or will you start earmarking it? And I guess I just want to make it clear that when we vote on this we're starting to earmark parts of that fund and move from a policy decision that we did make last year. I support Senator Byars' bill. I think it is very, very important. This is going to be a hard decision for me when I vote on this because I know it's a way to ensure that it's funded, but we're going to open the door and there are going to be a lot of groups that are going to want to earmark this fund for specific public health purposes. So just to make sure that when you vote you make a clear decision, one is to keep up the original mechanism and allow a way to apply for those funds through the mechanism that was set up last year without restrictions, or to start earmarking parts of this fund for specific purposes. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brown.