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a direct correlation between smoking and cancer, and the Legislature determined that collecting some money from the sale of every pack of cigarettes for cancer research was a good idea. Now we also know that there is a great deal of research about the inverse relationship between the price of cigarettes and sales. In fact, that's what's been discussed this morning. If we increase the tax on cigarettes enough, then we're going to decrease sales. Well, that's a double-edged sword because, of course, as the price of cigarettes increases and consumption goes down, the amount of funding that goes into the Health Fund, the Health Cash Fund for UNMC and Creighton to use for their cancer research also goes down. The price of cigarettes has increased over the last six years and, most notably, the voluntary price increase of 45 cents by tobacco companies, and the amount the fund receives has not been changed in six years. So raising the tax by the amount that is in this amendment serves two purposes. First, it it to compensate for the loss in real dollars over the last six years through inflation and price increases and, second, it will buffer the fund from lost revenues in anticipation of the substantial increased taxes on both state and federal level. I will iterate at this point that there's an estimated 10 percent...as there is an estimated 10 percent increase in price, there's a corresponding 4 percent decrease in sales. UNMC and Creighton very effectively use these funds. In fact, Dr. Lynch (phonetic) from Creighton has received a national award for his research, and both UNMC and Creighton have been recognized nationally and internationally for the work that they have done on cancer and smoking related diseases. It's very, very important that we ensure that research continues to go on with regard to these diseases. It doesn't matter how much we raise cigarette taxes, we know that there will continue to be people who smoke and we know that there will continue to be, for the next 40 or 50 years at least, people who are going to be suffering from cancer, as a result of smoking, and other diseases as a result of smoking. So I would hope my colleagues would continue to keep in mind that it is very important to provide for this component...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: ...of public policy with regard to cigarette smoking and that is continue to look for cures for cancer and