

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 17, 2000 LB 1436

need to have an evaluation piece. It's a way to test out new ideas and maybe we need to be small so that we can test this out and see if it's going to work. We use the best research, which I think Senator Bohlke has done in looking at what other states have done, but I think there's more...more to this issue. In fact, if I were coming at the issue, I think smoking cessation for teenagers is a very critical piece. When the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has...which has done a lot of work in this area, gives us these recommendations for a comprehensive program I think we should take that information. Sometimes in referencing things that have a blended up set of issues get referenced to one committee. I think our committee, Health and Human Services, would have liked to have reviewed this. It is a prevention program dealing with a health issue. It was also dealing with the trust fund as a funding source--two clear issues that come before us in other ways. So I would hope that you would look to the Chair of our committee and the work that we're trying to do and give us the time to craft ways that we, as a body, can begin to access those funds for worthy projects. I think this is just ahead of the time, where we are, at a point where it's appropriate to do that. And even though I share my colleagues' concerns about teen smoking in the state and a desire to do something, I think, number one, we have to make sure what we are doing is the best solution and the most comprehensive way to approach that and, two, we give the Legislature time to get the trust fund process solidified and we will continue to work on that as the committee, Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 1436.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President, and as we have had this discussion I will return to the point that I opened on, on my close, and that goes to the proof that we have across the hall with the ad that the kids did in Florida that drove teen smoking rates in the state down nearly 20 percent from 1998 to 1999. That's one year, down 20 percent. I think Senator Coordsen made excellent comments. Too often, too often we just do not give kids the amount of respect and recognize their abilities that they have. All of us here who have children or