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FLOOR DEBATE

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effective in workplace. So you have five problem gamblers, you got to hire another person just to be as effective as you were if those individuals didn't have that problem. We found that 56 percent of the employees had lost time by absenting themselves from the workplace in order to gamble or to participate in activities related to gambling, that is, seeking funds with which to gamble, or to pay gambling related debts. Almost 60 percent of the employees in the southern region of Nevada had said...their employers have said they have left work to go gamble, or they have left work to go try and find a way to generate additional money, or they have left work specifically to go pay a gambling debt. So it's not only a fact about these individuals are going to have an impact on themselves, which is obviously a travesty. But they're also going to have an impact on their employer, and then in turn on society. And depending upon where those individuals work, it might have a bigger impact than others. I mean, if the individual is working at a machinery factory and they're just putting machinery together, there's going to be opportunities for that to take care of itself. If that individual works in a human services field, or maybe they work in other facilities that deal with young people, education, whatever it is, those are big issues that I think we need to look at. It is amazing to me though that when we get to talking about this,...

SENATOR HARTNETT: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...that we seem to think that this isn't about the money. Well, I think it is. I think most people look at this and say, we want to try to keep that money from going to Iowa. There's no guarantee that this will do that. And even if it would, it's 2008 before we actually see that. Then you add into that the fact that you're trying to figure out how to make sure that in the workplace you don't lose employees to this addiction, you don't lose individuals to this problem, as well as you don't lose the revenue and potential retail sales that we've seen when Pottawattamie County cannibalizes the rest of Iowa. Senator Schimek pointed it out. They're growing, they're doing these great things. At the expense of that, in addition to all the other problems that they're generating to have to pay for, they're also cannibalizing the 14 communities that I passed