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FLOOR DEBATE

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or is that a family that has been started by someone six years old or younger?

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    (Laugh)

SENATOR PREISTER:    And, Senator Chambers, as you compose yourself, I'm sure somebody else wrote that sentence because it wouldn't have been one that you have composed. (Laugh) I will take that speechlessness as a compliment. But beyond that, I see what's attempting to be done here and I have to oppose it. Certainly, the concept of taking funds to deal with the problems we have in east Omaha, a portion of which I directly represent, as does Senator Synowiecki and Senator Maxwell and Senator Chambers, but this isn't the way to do it. The lead abatement program is a federal program that's being funded federally with federal dollars. The Environmental Trust, as Senator...now I can't even think of it, thank you...Senator Schrock had mentioned earlier was designed not to fund types of environmental contamination like this, not point sources, not contamination where you have responsible parties, not sources of contamination where you have other funding available. The purpose of the Environmental Trust was to fund those things that would have no other sources, that would have no other opportunities to be implemented without the trust. It's a whole different situation and it was voted on by the voters of this state based upon those guidelines. And as well-meaning as Senator Chambers is, in trying to do this, and since I too represent those children that are being impacted, I want to do something to prevent them from experiencing that contamination. But we've already raided the Environmental Trust. We did take money away from it to fund a lawsuit on the low-level nuclear waste site. I didn't support that because that was inappropriate. Yes, we needed to fund that, but not out of the Environmental Trust, where we have too few dollars going to fund too many projects. There are way more projects that are always requesting funding than we can ever fund from that process and from that trust fund, and we're trying to provide so that through donations to that fund we can fund more of these things. We have raided it for other causes and I've opposed those. This is another well-meaning...this is probably more...