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to now pick up Kids Connection funds, which is just right down the list here from us, a couple bills.

SENATOR KREMER: Okay. Well, I guess I just feel like it would be very appropriate to come from that fund somewhere. But then if it...that doesn't fit, it seems like going over to the General Fund is not the appropriate thing to do at this time, with our shortfall that we have. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Kremer, Senator Jensen. Senator Thompson, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mister...or, Madam Chairman, members of the body. I have a son whose favorite phrase is, hindsight is always 20-20. And this is one of those issues. When the 692 discussion was going on between the Health and Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee, we heard over and over from people who had an interest in this particular issue that we should be setting aside funds for that purpose from the settlement money, because that was the purpose of the money. When it came through the attorneys general to the states, it was supposed to be used for this purpose. We had the three years set aside from the IGT funds. But in trying to negotiate between our two committees and all the interests, health interests for the tobacco settlement money, it all got allocated. This year...and we didn't provide for this, and the...to go on through that fund. And we're kind of hopeful that, just as we were hopeful with the rest of the revenue in our budget, that the economy was strong and that we would be able to generate quite a bit of money from the investment on the tobacco settlement money. Well, just like your 401(k)'s and all your retirement accounts and everything else that's happening to everyone, this fund did not produce more money. So this year when it came back around, the fund...we'd have to dip into the principle to be able to continue to fund these programs. The only other...so the Governor had proposed taking \$3 million of General Fund for this purpose. Our committee felt we were dipping too far into the General Fund. A motion was made that particular evening, and it was taken from the Cash Reserve. I think we have a commitment to continue this. Unfortunately, the same problem we have with our overall revenues is the same