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caused by alcohol, and that is true. Nebraska is seeing huge problems with illegal drugs, such as marijuana, methamphetamine and others. But alcohol is still and always has been the number one abused drug in Nebraska. It also serves as a gateway drug for other illegal drugs. I must stress the importance of establishing a treatment fund. Merely raising taxes, putting all of the money in a General Fund, will not advance treatment in Nebraska. In the next few years, Nebraska will be faced with many opportunities and emergencies. We need the money from the treatment fund to help address treatment issues involving probation and parole. We're moving into community corrections and as we try to find solutions to our prison overcrowding, we need resources from the treatment fund to divert people from the prison sentences to treatment solutions. We will need money from the treatment fund to help develop treatment programs within our community corrections movement. Also, Nebraska has been awarded a federal grant to develop infrastructure with the faith and community-based behavior health providers, and these funds could be a shot in the arm to the local and faith-based treatment alternatives that the state needs. We could also use these funds to provide treatment for a juvenile offender, which may keep him out of the state custody. We could use the funds to help the addicted person transition from the treatment facility to the public. The needs are so great; the current resources are very small. We must not merely raise the tax and put all the money in the General Fund and expect to address the substance abuse problem from there. Substance abuse problems touch particularly...or practically every committee here in the Legislature, and today we have a unique opportunity to make a huge difference. There was a study done in California that showed for every dollar spent on treatment the state recognized \$4 to \$7 savings in criminal justice costs alone. I realize the temptation to place all the funds in General Fund, and there will be...that will be due to our budgetary problems. However, please realize that there may not be any legislative alternative that would save the state as much financially as these treatment programs would. I'm asking you to please consider this amendment and importance of this amendment to our citizens. I thank you, and would be glad to answer any questions, Mr. President.