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always twenty-twenty. I think we need to keep this money in place. It's the essential purpose. It's a way to get us, of tobacco tax and tobacco settlement money, it's a way to get us through this situation, and not take away from that important purpose. I don't consider it a new program. I consider it an ongoing program. It's not something that we're looking for new money for. The Governor could have funded this program out of the tobacco settlement money, but his proposal was to divert the money for the grant program out of the tobacco settlement money, to pay for Kids Connection.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: So, Senator Brashear, there were other ways to do it. Senator...the Governor chose to take money from the tobacco settlement and divert it to pay for the Kids Connection program. It could have been done the same way. You could have used that same money to pay out of General Fund. It just happened to be the way he proposed, this from the General Fund, and the other from...because the monies matched up a little bit better. I...you can cut this, slice this, any way you want, but we have to continue to fund the program. I oppose the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Bourne, followed by Senator Aguilar and others. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of Senator Raikes' amendment. I...matter of fact, I drafted up this very amendment myself. And Senator Raikes, being a little more spry than I am, introduced it first. And had he not, I would have. We've have a little bit of a discussion on whether or not this is an old or a new program. And quite honestly, what does that matter? The fact of the matter is, is we're sitting on a budget deficit in excess of \$700 million. We can't support everything. Let me tell you a little bit about what this does. And I'm a reformed smoker. And I quit cold turkey. I didn't need any cessation program, although some do. But one of the ladies that works with me decided she wanted to stop smoking. And given that she works here in the Legislature, she was familiar with the smoking