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LB 407

Districts 1 and 3 have a funding at \$1.58 million for roughly 91,000 minorities, and District 2 has \$1.4 million for 100,000 minorities. Tell me again what's unfair about the current situation.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, the reality is, it's not means tested whatsoever. I'm trying to means test at least part of the funding.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Kruse, on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in support of Senator Smith's amendment, very strong support. I'm impressed with this, especially with the information that is being shared with us about this particular need. And I would affirm that the money is there. It is available in the tobacco settlement. There's a margin in there. But especially for this kind of a modest amount. But the question is fairness. Minority status does get involved in this. But clearly, a part of it is the poverty level. Here we've got a situation where there's 46,000 visits. Oh my. My wife comes from Scottsbluff. And I'll tell you, one of the challenges of being good government in that part of the state is because people are spread out a little bit. When you pull up 46,000 visits in a place like that, it's obviously meeting a particular need. It's obviously that which the persons are feeling. The poverty level is higher than in other areas. It seems to me this is a good use of funds. And again, I do affirm that the money is there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise in opposition to this amendment. And my main reason for the opposition of this is, I was listening very closely to Senator Jensen's comments there. And we have a district health department in my county and the surrounding counties, a very successful health department there. We have just been awarded a grant to develop a community health department. I think this bill is premature. I think we need to