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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

need more time, that is a red herring. That is not the situation. The money is there. We can do that. It's a Cash Fund. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 692 was passed in 2001. Senator Smith was present at that time. Matter of fact, the vote was 47 in favor, 2 people were absent. The vote was unanimous. Senator Smith was present. That was when the original distribution was set forward. If he had objection, he should have brought it up in 2001. This year, in 2003, we had a, again, a joint committee hearing between the Appropriations Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee. The two items that were brought forth and it was decided at that time that we would fund LB 692 in its present form that it had been, and even to the point that there was, at that time, to go an additional \$2 million to the biomedical research, to increase that from \$10 million to \$12 million. We decided at that time that we would freeze that and not do that. Then also we took the grant portion out of LB 692, \$5 million, and we decided to fund Kids Connection. Again, through that process there could have been an opportunity for the Panhandle Community Services to come in and say, we want more funding. It didn't happen. We didn't hear anything. There was nothing mentioned at all, until yesterday I started hearing this. Now, you know, I don't know how much time we need for things, and I don't know how much you want to put credence in the committee system that we have, but I think that we have done everything that we said that we would do. We have had testimony by a number of people at that hearing, both the first time, the second time, and again we didn't hear anything from the Panhandle Community Services. They are getting some money that is part of the grant between Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 3. I would imagine that they have an opportunity to say that they need more or they need it for certain services. I don't know whether they would change that or not, but again, then to come in now, though, and ask for this other dollars. Now, yes, talk about Cash Funds, these are part of the tobacco settlement, but yet, if LB 692 wasn't there, we would have \$50 million of General Fund expense if we funded those programs. I don't look at it