

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 28, 2003

LB 285A

will do until I believe that next year that we can fund this better and, you know, for the best practices, the CDC says that we should be spending about \$17 million a year.

SENATOR BOURNE: I agree and I did read that. So the CDC recommends \$17 million and, again, I'm not opposed to this program. I just don't believe we should use General Fund money when we have hundreds of millions of dollars in our health...in our tobacco settlement trust. And what we're doing is we've increased taxes, and in a sense this isn't...we are allocating money. We tried to eliminate a \$6 million program, one of the few programs we were able to successfully eliminate, when probably everyone in here agrees that the money should be funded from the tobacco settlement money. And now we're putting \$400,000 so that we can keep the staff there? They won't be able to do anything other than be paid their salaries?

SENATOR JENSEN: Oh, no. There will be...there will be coordination of the various programs that we have already established, that...

SENATOR BOURNE: How many staff people are there, Senator Jensen? Can...

SENATOR JENSEN: I can't tell you that, Senator.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Is there anybody, Senator Byars, is there anyone in here that knows? Senator Byars, would you yield to a question? Thank you, we had Senator Jensen say that this \$400,000 is the absolute minimum to fund the staffing. Do you know how many people that are staffed in...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...this Tobacco Free Nebraska program?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have that number, Senator Bourne. I apologize.