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join in a pledge to look at the tobacco settlement dollars to see if we can fund this, if we can just keep this program together, keep the staff that are there, that are dedicated, that are working with minorities in Omaha and the various groups across the state, as far as that goes, on these smoking programs. It has been a program that has worked in the past, and if we do need to continue this program, then we are not starting from scratch all over again. We got people that are familiar with it, that are working with it, and we can continue. Thank you.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd just like to ask Senator Jensen a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: First of all, Senator Jensen, I would doubt that there is anybody on this floor who doesn't agree that this is a good program, and should be kept going. My question is, why is it so difficult to get the money into this program from the tobacco fund immediately in order to fund this program, since it's so important and since that's where the money...those are the people who are paying the money to try to get people to quit smoking? Why is it so difficult to get this money into that program and we wouldn't have this big problem?

SENATOR JENSEN: Because at this point in time, all of those dollars are committed. We are funding \$50 million a year from the Tobacco Settlement Funds, and that is totally committed. Matter of fact, we've always stayed a little below the \$50 million. This year we're with maybe \$100,000, maybe even less than that of the \$50 million. Next year we will do a reallocation of those dollars. You're absolutely right, it should come from there. It shouldn't come from General Fund. This is just to hold it together.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, that was going to be my next question.