

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 10, 2004 LB 1005

level. We just...we need to do these things, I think. But everybody needs to be conscious that they're contributing to the overall load, and I just hope you keep that in mind as the budget discussion comes up next week. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Further discussion? Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I would reaffirm what Senator Beutler just said. We're, as you know, in the throes of having some very serious budgetary problems in the state. And we need to take on worthwhile things, but we need to recognize that there's a price in doing it. And I hope that when you vote for this that you recognize that you are committing to a program of a long-term nature. We hope it's a long-term nature that this will occur. But I did have a question of Senator Cunningham about the immediate impact.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, would you yield to a question from Senator Pederson?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I will.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: You said that this would be funded by the repayment of previous users of the healthcare fund that had basically reneged on their deal and had put money back in. Is there an adequate amount of money in that today to start this program?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes. We feel, by estimates of how many will be accepted on this program, we feel that it would last for about four years, currently. And I guess I would stress that when we get to the end of that four years, if the current budget situation in Nebraska doesn't allow the sustainability, we'll have to address that issue then. I guess I won't. I won't be here then, but whoever is here, we will have to address that issue. But right now it looks like four years. And with the current situation with mental health in Nebraska and the restructuring that's trying to take place, I mean, we desperately need to do something in outstate Nebraska.