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LB 737

Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I am.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Cunningham, are we...are we discussing all of these claims and bills on this handout that you have?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes. The way it is now, Senator Stuthman, we're recommending that you approve. If you approve this amendment and this bill, that means we will pay all of these claims. If you want to not pay something in here, you would have to file an amendment to take that out of the bill.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you. Could you go to the second to the last page, second to the last page on Request 05-209...

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Grand Island Veteran's Home, to write off \$12,000. You know, the first...the first one is for \$60.40, the second for \$882, and the third for \$11,809. And it says, "As to the third debtor, there is insufficient evidence whether anything was filed against the estate." This concerns me. You know, we've got a number here; we don't have evidence. Is this a figure pulled out of the air? Should we be accountable for it, or what is your feelings on this one, Senator Cunningham?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, this was one that we did have concerns about as a committee, Senator Stuthman. I believe in this case the bill is not collectible, but at the time when the people were deceased and left the home, we believe the state could have done a better job of filing a claim at that point in case there were assets, and we don't believe that happened. And we are going to have an interim hearing this fall, Senator Stuthman, to examine the process that the agencies use for this sort of thing.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Then I want to go back to the first page, if I may, on item number 2 on