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FLOOR DEBATE

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as Senator Howard was talking, the need is so concentrated. You know, the diabetes is about four times more prevalent on the reservation than it is in the population as a whole. Alcoholism is by a factor of about four higher, and it has to do with some history, it has to do with socioeconomic status, but it also has to do with some of the biological functions and how the diet has changed and things like that through the years. This is a concentrated problem and I think the target that Senator Howard is applying here is very laudable and I think you can see real results by putting an emphasis. But as I read the amendment, it's not the whole program. It's not taking away from everything else. It's saying this should be a highest priority, and not the only priority, but the highest priority. And so I believe that this is a good approach and something that we ought to look at. We need to understand that this is a problem that the state of Nebraska has to step up and help with. We're doing a lot, but we need to do more.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers. And this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, touching a bit more on what Senator Stuthman expressed concern about, it should be kept in mind what was pointed out repeatedly during the debate of Senator Foley's amendment. There are numerous organizations right now, Senator Stuthman, providing the exact services that Senator Foley's amendment talks about. His amendment would be duplicative. What we're talking about in Senator Howard's amendment is not an area being addressed by numerous agencies. Numerous agencies currently provide the service that Senator Foley's amendment addresses. There is no need for a pilot program in that regard because there are established programs right now that have been ongoing. They have been sustained and they are sustainable without taking money from the TANF funds, the Temporary Aid for Needy Families Fund. Those programs exist right now. There are no equivalent programs addressing as the highest priority the matters contained in Senator Howard's amendment. Senator Connealy correctly stated what the amendment language that Senator Howard is offering us actually says. The highest priority does not mean the only priority. Everything else that