

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

also fetal alcohol syndrome. I don't...it may be, but it's not designated for that. I know they have used that money for diabetes and diabetes screening and diabetes education, and so I don't know exactly...I can't tell you today what each tribe is using those monies for. We haven't been dictatorial as to how that money is to be spent other than healthcare. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR HOWARD: And I take it healthcare would be in the most general of terms.

SENATOR JENSEN: It is a general term. And maybe this is the year that we need to go back and maybe find out exactly what it's been used for. But I do know that, as Senator Connealy said, the diabetes among Native Americans is four times what it is for the Caucasian, and so I know they're using some for that; the rest I don't know. They could be using it for fetal alcohol, but I wouldn't say that on the floor that that's where it's going.

SENATOR HOWARD: I appreciate that information. I think that's very helpful to put it in a perspective. And if I could, I'd like to share some additional information regarding Senator Foley's program, if he will allow me to refer to it as such. This program would provide access to information on medical care, hospital clinics, doctors, healthcare facilities, and other professional services, and to assist with identifying drug and alcohol programs if these were needed. Would also teach life skills for parenting and nutritional needs, availability of other community social services, and other programs for the physical and emotional needs of women expressing stress during a crisis/difficult pregnancy. To me, this bill would be...this program would certainly lend itself to the needs of this...of the Native American population who's struggling with all these very basic life issues. And I thank Senator Schimek for putting an amendment in to broaden this, as Senator Foley has suggested that we do, to broaden this. And in this case it would include more women and would serve a greater need in focusing on this population and these infants that are born with the fetal alcohol syndrome. While I agree that it's a worthy cause to offer counseling to each and every individual, I go back to the