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

May 11, 2005 LB 425

SENATOR SMITH: ...the ad is out there. Well, we decided, yeah, that is a little unethical to suggest that getting out of bed to go buy a lottery ticket is a good thing. Where are we going with the lottery? Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in...with some real concern about what Senator McDonald has brought to us this evening. We've had a lot of discussion, as mentioned earlier, about downtrodded people, people with problems, and we've got a lot of care and concern for them, and I'm really concerned for these people with gambling addictions and what are we going to do. If not here, if we cannot get money here, then where? All they need...they need \$156,155, according to this handout. The projected shortfall in funds is present, despite the fact that there are no awareness funds used to promote the gambling assistance program services. Providers are not reimbursed for their awareness presentations they provide to promote treatment in their community. Clients of the GAP services are finding the treatment services without the help of any organized funded message informing them on access points for the GAP providers. Compare this with the state of Iowa, which allocates over \$1 million on awareness for services, like 1-800-Bets-Off. hear advertisement on KFAB all the time--call 1-800-Bets-Off--but no one over the border in Nebraska gets to benefit from that. They will not serve the people of Nebraska. And we heard a lot of testimony, debate right here on this floor and in the General Affairs hearing room about all the Nebraska license plates that line the casinos over the border in Iowa. These are people with problems. They're people with families. They're people with situations much similar to what we allocated money for from somewhere else, you know, earlier today, earlier this week, and I commend Senator McDonald for first being told it's unconstitutional. She was told no in two or three different ways, at least, and she has had to reinvent this that she brought to us tonight umpteen times, and I commend her for her determination to help these folks. And I'm just going to pile on and say they need help. And I'm not a rocket scientist, I'm not an economist. I don't know how to get this money.