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think that's an immense mixed signal that I think is problem...that creates a problem for the state long term, and Senator McDonald's efforts through AM1656 is one way to try to mitigate the problems that have been created. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Foley, followed by Senator McDonald.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to also thank Senator McDonald for her work on this issue. The compulsive gambling certainly is a serious public policy problem that we need to address. And, Senator McDonald, I wonder if you might yield to a couple questions. I'm trying to catch up with you on this. You've done more work on this question than I have. Your amendment references the compulsive gamblers assistance program. How is that program currently financed?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: They get \$500,000 from the lottery proceeds up-front, and then 1 percent of the trust funds.

SENATOR FOLEY: So that's fixed in law.

SENATOR McDONALD: Yes, and that's what can't be changed.

SENATOR FOLEY: We can't...that's the problem, we can't change that.

SENATOR McDONALD: No.

SENATOR FOLEY: I can't help but wonder if maybe the solution here, and maybe you've thought about this, isn't perhaps just to write a constitutional amendment so that we can get to the problem that way, rather than going to the General Funds. The difficulty with the General Funds is that they may be there this year, but we need an ongoing program and if it's going to be a fight every biennium to try to find those monies for this program, wouldn't we be better off with a constitutional amendment to address the core issue here? And you probably