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

March 15, 2006 LB 1060

dying. To die from AIDS is not pleasant. It is very painful, not only for the one suffering, but for the ones around that person. In addition to the cancers, the pneumonia, the lesions, there can be blindness, there can be dementia. And there are various brain-wasting diseases that some people are familiar Alzheimer's might come to mind. But this is more devastating than that, because it's accompanied by agony. I am hoping that people will realize that AIDS is not a punishment from God. AIDS is a disease like any other disease, except that it is devastating when it begins to ravage a person. should not be viewed in the way that people used to view leprosy, where during Jesus' day, a person who had leprosy would have to cry out, unclean, unclean, to warn people to stay away. I realize that some have that attitude toward people with AIDS. But we are beyond that, I know. Senator Jensen probably has much more in the way of specific information that he can give you than what I'm presenting here. But the thing I hope we will keep in mind is that we're not throwing money at a nonexistent problem; we're dealing with an existing problem that literally a matter of life or death. And even when it is life. it is a tenuous, stress-filled existence. This is opportunity to show, if we say we are in favor of life, we should do what is being suggested here. Calculations have been made as to how many patients are going to have to be treated, how many comprise the waiting list, how much it takes to treat a person or provide the medication per month, which is over \$800. And they multiply these different amounts and come up with the need that exists right now, and \$750,000 is that need. So this is not a number that was just pulled out of a hat or out of the sky. The first amendment that I had offered was asking for That was to be my bludgeoning amendment, from which \$1 million. I would allow myself to be beaten downward to \$750,000. But other people who have an interest in achieving what this present amendment will do had said it would be better to just go ahead and put this amendment for this amount. And since others will speak, I'm not going to try to go into any--I'm not a doctor anyway, obviously--any clinical description of AIDS. But when you take the test, what they're looking for are antibodies. That virus is clever, cunning, sneaky. There was an old hillbilly song called "Sneaky Snake." Sneaky Snake was nothing compared to this virus. It masquerades as other things. It