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LB 248, 288

Schellpeper and the members of his committee put this amendment on, or sent it out to us as a favor to a colleague. That's why it was done, and I'm going to call these thing like they are more and more on the record so the public will know how we legislate. Then when we put this money into these programs and the things that the public is made to think will happen does not happen, then it's going to be clear to them why it happened. It is not always an incompetent bureaucracy. It's an irresponsible, incompetent majority of the Legislature. And we think if we just go along and see so-and-so vote a certain way, then it's all right to vote that way, and then we want to clean our hands up later and say, well, I didn't know this was happening. I didn't know that's what we were doing. We get so much trash legislation in the Judiciary Committee that some of the people who haven't been there before will say, well, this is in the current law. This craziness is in the current law. Why is it there?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator. Senator Witek,...by Senators Schellpeper, Hilgert, and Chambers.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. If we're going to be discussing more of this original piece of legislation, it was LB 288, and if you look on the committee statement in LB 288, you'll see that the people who were in favor of this piece of legislation...and this was a small portion of them. Understand, we were trying to limit the hearing, the length of time in the hearing. Lutheran Advocacy Office, Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, Governor's Council on Gambler's Assistance, First Step Recovery...that's the one that I'm probably most familiar with,...Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, Oak Harbor Recovery Center, Lutheran Family Services, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling. These...we had asked some of these people to appear in a neutral capacity. Jerry Fauerkemper, who's from Health and Human Services, who is the full-time FTE, at this time, for the program. So you see that there are agencies out there that the money is funding an FTE, a full-time employee, but it's...most of it, by far, is for training for people to help and they train them to help with the counseling, and that doesn't only include the counseling as far as the addiction or the compulsion is concerned, but it's the