

SENATOR WARNER: The...

SENATOR SMITH: That they are anticipating from LB 280?

SENATOR WARNER: LB 280 goes to the general fund.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, your light is on, did you wish to speak on this? Okay. Senator Nelson, your light is on. All right, now, Senator Lynch, you may close.

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, to further answer the question asked by Senator Nelson. In the last four years, Senator Nelson, mental health programs have received a 2.3 percent increase from the general fund over the last four years.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR LYNCH: In alcoholism and drug abuse there has actually been a 1.8 percent lower total funds into those programs from the general fund. That is the reason these people went out on their own and raised \$13 million and that is why it is only fair, it is really only fair that they be given this portion of that \$13 million, this very small portion that they raised. Keep in mind all of you, please, that these are all community based programs. You are looking at 79 alcohol and drug abuse programs out there. You are looking at some 57 mental health programs, many of them in rural areas. It is amazing how much business has increased since the farm crisis has developed. People in the rural areas have suffered as a result of the crisis and do need help. We are serving 18,500 people in alcoholism and drug community programs. We are serving 14,600 people in the community based mental health programs. The institution programs are also equally valuable. But just think of the numbers and think of the total involved. Think of the equivalent good that can be accomplished for all these people. It seems to me that this is a very good consideration for us at the present time. And I think we would, in fact, be tripping over dollars saving pennies.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I am sorry, Senator Lynch.