

What I'm talking about here today is that we are telling these poor women they can't have any more babies. And I don't want them forced into an abortion that they don't want and that we don't want to happen. So, I think we just need to include here that the words, nor funding for abortion...or funding for abortion, so there isn't any misunderstanding when we go through the family planning and the counseling and so on that I know they need. I am not arguing today about the fact that we have young people who need counseling. They need education of some kind to understand what it is they do when they hop into bed with each other. And, as I said this morning, they're looking for love, they're looking for acceptance, and I understand that, I understand the problem in that regard. But we do have to be sure that if we could just put out some kind of edict saying no more, well, if they'd follow that we'd be...we wouldn't even have to worry anymore. But human beings aren't like that. Human beings are...have been made by, I am sure, divine plan, and we have all those urges that we think need to be fulfilled. And if we could make any inroads with this kind of thrust, through the Department of Social Services, and whatever will result from this particular bill, if we could make any inroads on that problem of people having babies outside of wedlock, and then perhaps not being able to get married because the young man takes off, or he doesn't want to support, or that kind of thing, with counseling and the proper education maybe we will cut down on those. I don't know. I'm not going to predict on this floor that this bill is going to do that. And I don't think any of us should think that it will. But all I'm doing...all I'm asking on this amendment is to add the words, on line 23...page 23, line 22, after the word "abortion" in line 23, insert "or funding for abortion". Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Rasmussen, did you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to rise in opposition to this amendment, primarily because I think it's totally unnecessary. The State of Nebraska now does not fund abortions. That is their policy. They have not, do not, and don't intend to. That's the policy of our Medicaid plan in the State of Nebraska, so I see this as totally unnecessary. We...I also don't buy into the presumption that there is anything in this legislation that encourages, promotes or says women can't have more children and must have abortions. That is not what it's saying here. It is saying that for the