

400,000 in the first year, and about 450,000 in the next year, so I think this is something the state definitely can afford. It is during this time that we get the match with the federal government, so it's important that we do it for those three months. I would just urge the support of the body on this amendment. I think it is a fair compromise. I think it's not what Senator Chambers wants, and I understand that, but at least we're going to get some money to these women for those last three months. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to oppose this amendment also. The trade-off and the reason the committee forwarded my bill, 658, instead of Senator Day's was because we had a committee amendment that would raise the eligibility for medical health care to 150 percent of the eligibility for...of the federal poverty, and that was a trade-off. This will help more women and children who are oftentimes the working poor. Many times these women are out there working and that extra medical assistance is important to them and I agree with it. That is what our whole point is, to help the children by helping the mother make sure she has good health care, good nutrition. Seventy-one bucks a month, or in the case of the first time pregnant, which often times are the teenagers who live in ADC households, who have to move out to get the \$293, that is not, in my estimation, what our system of welfare is all about. This is what we have families for. Where is the father? Why isn't he there to provide for that child also? Governor Nelson's Welfare Reform Task...Reform Task Force talked about pay and benefits totaling \$23,000 a household, is about double the income level considered by the federal government to be the poverty line for a family of three. To earn that equivalent of what our taxpayers give to these people would require an hourly wage of \$11.11. Why don't we just ship it to them at the job site. Olga Miller's finding helped answer questions about the welfare mentality. Why do people choose to remain on welfare when there are jobs available? We're talking about one of the lowest unemployment in history. Why won't people find a job? Why do they decline to participate in job training programs, even when they are financially rewarded for doing so? Well, heck, we just give them money for being pregnant, they don't have to do anything for it. Why have welfare and Medicaid costs to the State of Nebraska risen sharply in recent years? And the answer, welfare pays, with Aid to Dependent Children, Food