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that he is no less concerned than I am about this culture and their needs and their infants. And I'm just going to read you this amendment: The highest priority for use of the funds shall be to make prenatal services available for women on Indian reservations within Nebraska. Such services shall seek to reduce the risk of fetal alcohol syndrome among this seriously underserved population. And if you will allow me, I'm going to read some information on this. Pregnancy risks among Native American Women. Nebraska Health and Human Services reported in the year 2003, the rate of births to unmarried women was 703.9 per 1,000 live births for Native Americans, and 706.3 for African Americans, as compared to 261.7 for white women, and 316 for all other races. The highest rates of unwed pregnancies were reported among women age 19 and under. Nebraska is home to four federally-recognized tribes--the Omaha, the Ponca, the Santee, and the Winnebago. The Omaha and the Winnebago reservations are both located in Thurston County, Nebraska, which has the highest incidence of births to unmarried women in the state, at 728.3 per 1,000 live births. In addition to high incidence of teen and unmarried births, alcoholism is a critical health issue for persons residing on Nebraska reservations. Most concerning is the use of alcohol among pregnant women. Alcoholism not only affects pregnancy rates among Native American women, but as I'm sure you all know, when a pregnant mother drinks alcohol, so does her unborn baby. This unfortunate reality has led to disproportionate rates of fetal alcohol syndrome, commonly known as FAS, among Native American women. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome per 10,000 total births for different ethnic groups were as followed: Asians, .3 percent; Hispanics, .8 percent; Caucasians, .9 percent; African Americans, 6 percent; and Native Americans, 29.9 percent. This data, and stacks of other research, indicate that Native American women are in dire need of counseling for pregnancy services and education. This amendment would ensure that the dollars designated for these types of services in our state would be prioritized for those populations most at need. This would give us the opportunity to impact a single health concern, and is consistent with the four purposes of the federal TANF Act in regard to preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies. And in further researching the information on the proposed