

February 23, 1982

LB 684

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, your time is up. Oh, I am sorry, go ahead. Go ahead.

SENATOR WESELY: I was just getting started.

SPEAKER MARVEL: That's what I was afraid of. Go ahead.

SENATOR WESELY: I was talking so fast I thought I would get it all in there. Now let me just tell you this that I have been getting letters ever since the bill came in opposing the bill. There is strong opposition across the State of Nebraska because they don't want to encourage abortion and they don't want to hurt pregnant mothers and keep them from getting benefits that they need. So I want you to know one last thing that the committee was concerned about and that was this. This bill doesn't go back to where the federal government allows states to go. It goes beyond that and makes it much more restricted than even the present policy is in other states. That is to say, federal policy, federal programs will provide assistance from six months pregnancy on. This bill will go back to the idea that when you have the child, at that point you will start to gain benefits. So this bill goes even farther back than what the federal policy would have you go. It is much more restrictive and we lose federal benefits and federal monies as a result and I think it is a bad policy decision on the part of the Legislature if we would do that. Our present policy is a good policy and I would defer the rest of my time to Senator Labeledz.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. If you recall in the Special Session, we went over this several times. In fact, I think there was two amendments that I can recall that the amendment was mine in the first place and then there was two amendments or motions made to strike my amendment and there was considerable amount of debate. A lot of time was spent and I would say wasted because the amendments did not pass, and now we are going through the same situation again. For the first time in five years that I have been here, this is the first time that I am not taking an abortion bill as my priority bill because of the fact of the short session and so many bills that have to be discussed. If this bill should come out on the floor, it is going to be long and lengthy debates and discussions. All we are asking...all we did ask in the amendment in the Special Session was that Nebraska continue the policy of helping to make ADC payments based

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