

cover the additional Aid to Dependent Children coverage which we are suggesting that the Legislature adopt. The annualized fiscal impact of this change is about \$385,000. To give you a little bit of perspective, this is in a total ADC budget in the State of Nebraska of \$58 million so you can see that we are spending a very small percentage of the total ADC budget to establish the viewpoint, at least to the Health and Welfare Committee and I would suspect of the entire Legislature that pregnancy should be covered. A woman and the unborn child should be covered from the date that a pregnancy is medically verified rather than accepting the federal government's point of view as far as third trimester is concerned. I would urge you to adopt it. I would also indicate to the members of the Legislature that I will be sending the Governor and the Director of the Department of Welfare a letter shortly and would invite anyone who would like to sign it to sign it in suggesting that these changes in the ADC program be funded by a \$5 per month reduction in Aid to Dependent Children base. That would generate about three hundred and twenty some thousand dollars a year which will almost pay for the changes that we are suggesting. So that letter will be available if anyone else would be interested in signing it. My own personal viewpoint is that that is the best way for us to fund this particular change. The current base funding for ADC recipients throughout the State of Nebraska is \$210 per month and the administration does have the authority to lower that to \$205 per month if they desire. With that I guess I would be happy to try and attempt to respond to any questions which you might have. I urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, your light was on. Do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of the committee amendments. We did hear this bill yesterday and did act this morning to amend the bill and I think that Senator Cullan has in very quick fashion and I think very well explained what exactly we are trying to do. Now let's talk dollars and cents. I think that clearly there is a lot of support within the committee and I hope on the floor to try and pick up the cost of the program which is being cut by the federal government to not allow for ADC benefits to go to a pregnant mother prior to the three months before they are to give birth. I think it is clear that they are benefits that are derived from providing assistance at the point at which pregnancy is discovered to make sure that that child is cared for properly, that the mother is well fed and that any effort to do otherwise is not looked to as a reasonable alternative because we have done some