

research and it is clear that developmental disabilities and handicaps, retardation result from the fact that a pregnant woman does not take care of herself and you can really cause a great deal of problems if that woman does not have the financial resources to care for that unborn child. So I think in that respect it is very clearly to the benefit of the state to make sure that that woman is, when their financial condition does not allow it, to personally care for that child so that we will help and make sure that that child is cared for. But I think there is also some other points that Senator Cullan made that I am not sure that I like. First off, we are talking about a cost here of over two hundred thousand dollars, about a quarter of a million dollars. It is hard to tell exactly but that is about what the cost will be for the rest of this fiscal year. That is at a time that we are discussing \$25 million worth of budget cuts. We are talking about an increase in expense of a quarter of a million dollars which seems to be a bit ironic. Nevertheless, I think as I said the program is a good one and I am not sure why the federal government decided to cut it because I think it is something of value to the state but if we are going to cut that amount of money then we have to decide, you know, the priorities of this state. Is that cut justified or is that increase in spending justified in terms of the budget cuts we are making? Is that increase in spending justified in terms of the other block grant cuts that are coming down the road which will be similarly questionable which will also be facing the state and which we will have to decide whether to pick up as we are in this case that lost federal support. This is a very complicated issue. This is the first of many complicated issues we are going to be facing in terms of federal cutbacks and programs that make sense to us for the State of Nebraska and those programs that we are going to consider as important and in need of funding are all going to be worthwhile and expensive and are we going to be able to afford to do the job that needs to be done? I don't think we can pick up anywhere near as much as will be lost by federal funding cuts. Nevertheless, in some instances we will want to pick up those programs. This is one of those instances I believe but I want you to be aware of the fact that this is one in a long line of budget cuts we are going to be facing the hard choice of. Do we pick it up or not? And several of the other items in the bill we do not pick up the cuts. We do allow the passthrough and the federal funding cuts are then implemented at the state level but in this instance of the ADC mother with the pregnant child, we are deciding that that is important enough that the state fund. Now I think as far as trading off, though, with the ADC benefits for everybody else that would