

the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare changed its regulations to make certain that benefits would be provided to pregnant women when the condition was first diagnosed. In 1975 an identical case, called Acala vs. Burns reached the United States Supreme Court and in that case the United States Supreme Court held that Judge Urbom, in effect, was wrong. The United States Supreme Court held that as a matter of its interpretation of the statutory law and the regulatory law, states were not required to pay benefits to unborn children. Well the moment that decision came down, our Department of Public Welfare decided they would rescind its regulations because obviously the earlier decision was one that no longer obtained. The Legislature was then in session when that happened and the Legislature responded almost unanimously by amending our statutes to make certain that the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare could not change those regulations. Our Legislature decided very simply that we were going to go on record as making certain that benefits were available to the mother and the unborn child and that is an absolutely right and correct decision and it is important for us to continue that policy today and forever if we genuinely care about the well-being of pregnant mothers and the fetuses that they are carrying and I know that we all do. So I support the amendment. By the same token I want to call your attention to the fact that we really need to affect no tradeoffs. There need be no tradeoffs in terms of funds. There have been many changes that have taken place right now in Congress to the ADC program. Our Department of Public Welfare has been implementing those changes effective the first of November. This particular change it could not implement without a statutory change but most of the other changes it could implement by changing its regulations. The regulations have been changed and the changes are now in place. Some 10% of existing ADC recipients are now off the ADC rolls. Some 25% of ADC recipients have had their grants reduced. There will undoubtedly be a savings in general funds over the remainder of this fiscal year alone to the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare of two and a half million dollars. The Department of Public Welfare is having a hard time coming up with a statement to that effect but I can guarantee you there will be a massive savings in funds by virtue of those federal changes that have already been implemented. So the fact that this may cost us a quarter of a million dollars to make this little amendment is far more than offset by those changes that now are in place. So that you know whereof I speak, take a look at your fiscal note to LB 7 and note LB 7 covers more than the unborn. It covers for example the provision of ADC benefits to youngsters between the ages of nineteen and