

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise as has Senator Fowler to vigorously oppose Senator Pirsch's amendment. The other day when Senator Chambers spoke on this issue, he chastised me for supporting, pitying one welfare parent or one welfare individual versus another, and he said something that I think is appropriate. He said, the Legislature seems to have a great deal of concern for the children before they arrive, but after they are here it is their own problem. And that I think is a very important philosophical statement. If we really believe the positions that we take collectively, and this Legislature has many times stated as strong as it possibly could its pro-life position, then I think it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to protect the life of that child before and after it is born. I do recognize the argument that Senator Pirsch made with respect to the respect that she didn't have to change her own lifestyle in the first several months of her pregnancy, but Senator Pirsch was an individual who didn't have nutritional problems at that point in time. Senator Pirsch was an individual, as fortunately most expectant mothers are, who had plenty of food on her table, who was taking care of herself before she had the additional responsibility of taking care for another human being. I think Senator Fowler takes a very good point on this issue. I think it would be unwise of us to attract from the strong stand that we made yesterday, one of supporting this concept in the laws of the State of Nebraska where we recognize not only with words, not only with rhetoric, but we recognize with the commitment of our own tax dollars that we believe life begins at this stage, and so I urge you to reject the Pirsch amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't know whether many of you know that...of course this came out as the committee amendment, but it was the amendment that I presented to the committee at the committee hearing. I first, when I talked about it yesterday and asked for the passage of the committee amendments, I asked you at that time to pass it on the merits of the pregnancy. I did not go into the abortion issue and I fully intend not to do it right now because I think Senator Fowler did an excellent job of explaining why this is not only essential to the mother or to the unwed mother who decides to bear her child to a full term, and I personally and on behalf of the unborn children would like to thank Senator Fowler for his excellent presentation. Senator Pirsch also mentioned her pregnancies and Senator Cullan again gave her an explanation that she probably didn't have the problems that a lot of women today have. It seems ironic though or a little bit