

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to discuss the fiscal aspects of this issue. I think we have discussed some of the other social and political implications of the problem that we have. I would like to talk about the fiscal problems. What we are talking about essentially in ADC recipients is that 86 percent of ADC payments in Nebraska go to single parent families, 86 percent of the payments go to single parent families. The times we are talking about in this issue are, for instance let's give an example of a sixteen year old or a seventeen year old girl who unfortunately should become pregnant, they would then be in a situation their first child, they would need some assistance. They would go down to the welfare office. They would check their parents' income. They would determine though first if that child was living at home or whether that child was what could be called an emancipated child and thus not really under their parents any further. And after they would make that determination they would look if that child was a member of the family still living at home and consider it a part of that family. They would check the parents' income and determine whether or not they could afford or meet the guidelines at hand. If the child lived in a poor family, at that point she would begin to receive some assistance. I think it is also clear that if she wasn't living at home or the parents were not providing assistance, she would again be able to possibly qualify for help. So what we are talking about here are not people that are able to financially really care for themselves or they wouldn't be receiving the assistance that is provided under ADC. These are people in need. There really is a determination that there is a substantial and significant need there before they will provide that assistance. I am pretty convinced that they do try to check that. So upon that determination, I guess my feeling is that if they are in need of assistance and they cannot properly care for themselves and thus their unborn child without this assistance, it is awfully important that we provide that help. Whether the federal government is going to be there or not, the state ought to have that responsibility. So I do support what the committee did to the bill in the form of a committee amendment, and would oppose the Pirsch amendment. Now let's talk further about some of the fiscal implications here. I have handed out a memo which you all got earlier this morning which explains I think as well as anything exactly where we are at on the fiscal matters during this year and next fiscal year. We would essentially break even and come out slightly ahead this year in terms of the savings from cutting out 19 and 20 and 21 year olds from ADC payments and adding the significant payments for the