

issue, importance of this problem and try to meet the medical needs of our pregnant women and our young children in poor families so that their needs might be met and we have healthier babies and I think happier families and I think fulfill the moral and ethical obligations this society has in that regard. With that, I would be happy to answer questions and urge your support for the legislation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We will now go to Sena\*or Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in strong support of LB 433. I apologize to the members that I failed to get the brochure or the article that was in the...by Marcia Tanner on Infant Mortality, a Product of Poverty to you sooner but I hope that you have the opportunity to read some of it. I think that the effect of the budget cuts in the program for women and infants and children that...without prenatal care, that the babies will die. Women living in poverty have a higher risk of having low birth weight babies and many low income women simply do not qualify for Medicaid protection and they neither have any private health insurance nor cash to pay for their medical care. So I do commend Senator Wesely and the co-sponsors of LB 433. We now give medical assistance now to dependent children, to the elderly and to persons that are blind and disabled and all individuals less than 21 years of age who are eligible under Social Security Act but LB 433 would require that the Department of Social Service to approximately 300 pregnant women who would meet that high risk and receive the case management during pregnancy. The case management cost is only about \$30 per month for an average of six months and I believe that LB 433 is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that we can have this year. And, as Senator Wesely says, we are flexible on the cost and the percentages can be reduced somewhat but I'm hopeful that the bill will pass as advanced by the committee and maybe we can now provide some help for low income, pregnant women, especially the high risk. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Labeledz. We will now go to Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I signed onto this bill and I had been on something like this before because, as an advocate of pro-life, I really feel strongly and