

I say this every time I talk about the pro-life problems and pro-choice and so on because I do feel that if you are pro-life, and I am, and I do support this kind of legislation because it is most important for us if we insist that the woman have the baby, we must take care of her and the baby. And I am just... I am... if I could get two things out of this Legislature this session, two money bills, someone would say, well, we've just worked a miracle, you can have anything you want but you can only have two bills, I would take this one and the allowance for the elderly in the nursing homes to raise that allowance because those are two classes of people who cannot speak out for themselves, who don't have a big lobby out there in the Rotunda to come in and put a lot of pressure on us to get that kind of money. So I know that, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am probably committing some kind of sin here, speaking out for this much money, Don Wesely, but I do believe in it and I think that we have to... Senator Labeledz sent around this article on infant mortality and the headline, A Product of Poverty, that is so true. As a mother and going through five pregnancies, I feel for these women who have the problem of not having enough money to be able to buy the kind of food she needs and vitamins and so on and then when the baby is small and she doesn't have the kind of money to have it... to feed it correctly and be sure that it grows and develops as it should, it's heartbreaking to see these young women try to make a life for themselves and the child and not have enough to eat. Put yourselves in that position. Think how it would be not to have enough to eat. We take it for granted but it's a real horrible thing to go home and to be home all day. Most of them can't work because they can't leave the baby, they don't have enough money to have the baby taken care of, so they stay home with the baby. They live on food stamps or whatever they can get and some of them not always qualify for all those benefits because of quirks in the law. So I, again, I support this legislation. I know it's difficult to get anything this time that has a price tag on it of this kind but I would hope that you would vote to move it along so when we come to the grand roundup it at least will be there so we can make our choices as to what bills we think are deserving of funding. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. We will now go to Senator Conway. Senator Conway waives off. Is there anyone else who wishes to discuss this bill? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?