

the high side of 50 percent of the women have to get a court...a guardian ad litem or attorney, assuming a \$2...2 hours of work and 4 hours work by the attorneys, it could be as much as a low of 45,000, to a high of 205,000. In other counties it's not going to be that high, obviously, because we're not looking at those kind of numbers. But it could be equally as damaging, budget wise. And to me it's more an issue of conscience, at this point, if we're going to force it on the counties to get it done, we should have the courage to say that we're willing to pay for it, particularly in something that supposedly means so much to so many.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss this amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Bernard-Stevens, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Very briefly, just to make sure that the numbers are there for everyone. The fiscal office assumed that there could be people under 19, pregnant women, there would be 1,813 in the State of Nebraska. If 20 percent of those women go through the bypass system, that would be 362 young women. Some of them may go to district court, some of them may go to county court, technically some could go to juvenile court. But if half of them go to district, and half of them go to county, as a guesstimate, the fees alone will cost \$9,593. If they have the guardian ad litem, or attorney, and the attorney takes only 2 hours to work on the case, that cost will be \$36,200 for those women. If, in fact, it takes 4 hours of work, it will take \$72,400 of cost to those counties. So you have a...basically you add the fees and the cost, you get a low of 45,000, and a high of 81,000. I've been a part of the Appropriations Committee now for this year, and we're looking at a \$3 billion biennial budget, a \$3 billion biennial budget. I wish I had my calculator to figure out the percentage of what \$45,000 was to \$3 billion. I wish I had my calculator right now to figure out what 81,000, high, would be to \$3 billion. And to have members of the body say that we think it jeopardizes the bill because it costs too much is absolutely ludicrous. The percentage is less than a half a percent, but I suspect it's even far less than that. We are going to, at this stage, say that the Legislature is going to pass 425, and we're so behind it that we're willing to fund it. I think it's not only the amendment is good, our obligation, if we're going to pass this, should be clear, our duty clear, and we shouldn't pass the buck, if we're so moralistic on these issues. We should grab it and be willing to