

September 29, 1992 LB 20, 27

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely, you're next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I'd like to go through and follow for you some of the information I have about the people affected and the dollars and cents involved with the discussion, just to give you an idea. Again, this is essentially LB 27, which I offered as an idea that needed to be laid on the table as a potential way to resolve some of our differences. Unfortunately, neither side on this wants to move toward this in any which we can sign off on something. But, nevertheless, I thought it would be valuable for you to hear some of the background about this. Now, essentially the program that we're talking about an ADC cash payment affects something like when you go from where we're at today to the point at which we would be under this bill as introduced, which is that the cash payment doesn't start until the birth of the baby. There's something like 1,269 individuals affected, 1,269 individuals affected. The prenatal program that is included in Senator Chambers' amendment affects 1,200 individuals. So they affect about the same number of people. The 1,200 people affected by Senator Chambers' amendment are 600 pregnant women who would have access to prenatal care, the health care services that were medically necessary to have a healthy child, the delivery of the child, and a couple of months of care afterwards, and 600 infants who would be able to receive health care after their birth for I think it's a year afterward. And so about the same number of people are affected by this. And the dollar figures involved are to provide this prenatal care up to 185 percent of poverty. It's estimated it would cost about 991,000 in General Funds, but that is matched by the federal government by \$1.6 million. So the 991,000, approximately \$1 million we would spend on this, would bring in about 1.6 million in federal dollars, and again would affect about the same number of people. But again the question is, where does the money go to, for what purpose, and who receives it. Under the prenatal program you're dealing with medical services, prenatal care services, delivery of babies, and, after the delivery of babies, the care for those babies and the mothers involved. It's health care related. The cash payments, under the ADC issue at hand, is merely that, cash payments, and that money can go for any number of purposes, including health care, possibly housing, other types of things that are necessary for that poor family. And although the same numbers of people are affected, they are affected in different ways with different types of ways in which the assistance can be