

is something like 61.5, I think, percent federal and the remainder state. So, essentially, for every dollar the state puts in, we get a dollar and a half federal money. So that last three months we do bring in federal money, and that's the match rate that you qualify for. Prior to that there's no match and it's all state money.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, the reason I wanted Senator Wesely to explain it was because this was a part of a bill that he had introduced, and the one who introduces it is in the best position to credibly tell you what the amendment does and what is entailed. This, as drafted, would not require the state to pick up the total cost of assisting these women during the last three months. For those of you who have said that somebody might get pregnant so they can get \$71 a month, or \$239 a month, we're way from that. We're at a point that, for whatever reason, a woman who is needy has reached the beginning of the seventh month of her pregnancy, and there is assistance that has been established already as being needed. So what this amendment would do, and it's standing alone now, there is nothing in this amendment related to changing the Medicaid eligibility standard. It deals only with the assistance that would be given to the pregnant woman during the last three months of pregnancy. There is no question that at this point in a pregnancy all of the discussions have to take on a different tone and tenor. I believe in a woman's right to make a choice. But when you begin to reach the first of the seventh month, it's not the same, in my opinion, as earlier times. And my opinion might begin to become a bit fuzzy even before you reach that point. But this amendment is dealing with the stage of the pregnancy where the state is entitled, even under the court rulings that prohibit the state from burdening a woman's decision to have an abortion, you're reaching a point where the state can enact laws to look after the interest of the fetus. So we're in an area now where whether you believe in a woman's right to choose an abortion or not, we're talking about a stage in pregnancy where it's very likely that we have a child that's going to come into the world. If needs of the pregnant mother the pregnant woman are not met, then the child can be damaged. There have been people who are called conservatives, and I don't know whether it's because of their pro-life stance or what, who have begun to recognize the value of providing for the needs of the pregnant woman and the fetus this far along in development, because it's likely this pregnancy will be carried to term. And if the child that is