

September 29, 1992 LB 20

The typical family on assistance in Nebraska is a mother and one child. So that myth of someone having eight or ten children to continue to get ADC money, there aren't many of them that do that. The last thing, the medium length of time families receive ADC is 15 months. That is only a year and three months. Seven out of ten ADC recipients receive aid for less than three years. So I just call these things to your attention again because I think we have to understand what we are talking about. Most ADC families wouldn't need assistance if absent parents provided adequate child support. And here's one last really good number...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...that I want you to think about. A record \$54 million in child support was collected in the fiscal year 1990 from absent parents of ADC and non-ADC families. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Schmit, you are next.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman and members, I just want to say a couple of words because I think it is important to recognize that the issue here is one which is of deep concern to all of us, and many individuals who are voting for the bill are, of course, deeply concerned about the impact of the bill and justifiably so. I don't think that anyone in this body is antichild or antiunmarried mother, but I just want to say that sometimes on this floor we have to do things for practical reasons. There are about 1,000 individuals that are impacted by this bill, I have been told, and I have the opportunity from time to time to observe the cost of medical care for individuals, both the mother and the baby, that have not had adequate care. Now I know that Governor Nelson and others are deeply concerned about providing adequate prenatal care for these young ladies. The facts are that there are many times they just do not have the few dollars it takes to even get to a doctor's office or to follow up on the kind of care that they need. As a result, it is just easier to let it slide. Now out of 1,000 individuals that might be getting some help, it is not much of a gamble I would guess to say that five of those individuals could actually run into complications; complications with severe and long-lasting impact, financial impact. Remember, these people have no resources. If, in fact, we were