

September 29, 1992 LB 20

by that but we're right back to it. So if the Governor and his cohorts think that this is a good way to balance the budget, I'm sorry I do not agree. I think I have that privilege. And when you talk about raising taxes, no. People in my district don't want taxes raised and neither do I. But you still have to put this whole thing into perspective and not take the whole Medicaid shortfall out on one group of people and that's what you're trying to do. You're trying to take it out on one group of people. I hope you'll vote for this amendment. Put everything else aside that I've said and just look at the amendment as it stands. It's a darn good amendment and I'd appreciate your support. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Crosby. The next light is Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely, please. I don't see Senator Wesely. We'll go over to Senator Landis on the Crosby amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I was illuminated by Senator Lindsay's opening on LB 20. I find myself at this moment ready to support a measure that would continue funding at current levels at the last three months. I don't wind up supporting the Crosby amendment at this point and it does start that kind of bidding war unfortunately that we get into. One of the virtues of the last three months is it carries the federal match money with it and that's a virtue. I will say this that I heard a lot in Senator Lindsay's opening that I found helpful. I am interested in making sure that poor women have adequate resources to handle the trauma of a pregnancy. I do think that contemporary services other than this do not wind up compensating completely for the cost of pregnancy. My guess is that there are other expenditures in addition to the ones enumerated by Senator Lindsay. It's clear that he makes a strong case on the existence of that underlying net for a number of important services and I'm glad to see that the state is going to continue. That helps me out a lot. I do think that over and above those services there are some expenses that go towards pregnancy. My difficulty generally in the area is that we're using a wrong yardstick here which is the cost of having a child in the home as a way of capturing the concept of the cost of pregnancy, and I think those are two different cost structures. We do not know nor have we analyzed the cost of what it takes when you're pregnant. And if we knew that number, I would find myself drawn to using that yardstick than the one that we have in the law presently. If I have to choose,