

September 29, 1992 LB 20

however, I think that some change in the way we do business now is appropriate because the yardstick we're using is in essence measuring something other than what we are in fact funding. I will tell you that I can support as an inexact way of reaching the benchmark that I think is appropriate the inexact mechanism of funding the last three months of the pregnancy at the current rate. And that proposal I will vote for. This is one that draws the line and continues I think the inappropriate yardstick more than I'm willing to do so and for that reason I'll oppose this amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wesely on the Crosby amendment. Senator Wesely waives off. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, considering where we are on this bill right now and with things standing the way they are, I speak in favor of Senator Crosby's amendment. This is another attempt to try to take away some of the harsh impact of LB 20. And we stated repeatedly what that impact is and the group that will be affected the most. Sometimes a very difficult problem seems that it offers no way to be solved. But when the true dimensions of the problem are appreciated by all of those who are grappling with it, sometimes minds begin to accommodate each other's position to some extent and there is movement. It would be like I guess trying to pull one of those baby teeth out of your child's gum. The tooth is loose, but you have to loosen it more before you can pull it out without pain. So on this issue I think there is some genuine movement despite what Senator Moore wants to see happen. But nothing has been arrived at conclusively or definitively. I still think that the state is not facing a crisis so dire that the full impact of it is felt only on this one program in terms of its being completely annihilated. That has not happened to any other program. It has not confronted any group, the members of which would be better able to cope with it than the members of this disadvantaged group that we're trying to help this afternoon and have been working on since yesterday. Senator Crosby's amendment changes the definition of dependent child from at birth...well, you have the amendment before you. We have to try to get what we can out of the turnip. And, Senator Schrock, I know you as a farmer have heard the expression "You can't get blood out of a turnip." But it depends on what is meant by blood if we mean human blood, then certainly not. But if we mean the fluid that transports various nutriments and