

pregnant women during the third trimester?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The one he submitted to us does not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then it's your...is it your conclusion that he is in favor of this bill to cut out that provision?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, this shows...and I'm not talking about Senator Wehrbein now, I asked him the questions because he's Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee. Let me tell you how we got where we are today. In 1992, there was a special session. There was a budget-cutting frenzy that politicians had to go through, so this was one of the weak, vulnerable programs that was attacked. What the people on the floor of the Legislature agreed to do, instead of cutting out all of the assistance that a poor, pregnant woman would be entitled to under the then existing law, that assistance would be cut out for the first six months and that only for a specified period of time. After that period of time elapsed, in other words, when the headlines for budget-cutting had been milked for all they were worth, that provision, cutting out assistance during the first six months of pregnancy, would be sunsetted and Nebraska would return to the position it occupied before that special session. Which meant that when pregnancy was confirmed a poor, pregnant woman eligible for such assistance would be able to obtain ADC. That is the position I support. We had to scramble and scratch during that 1992 special session to hold onto assistance for this last three months of the pregnancy. There are people who voted for that sunsetting. Now that the attempt is being made not only to take away the three months but to do away with that agreement in 1992 shows the value or lack of value of the word or agreements entered into by members of the Legislature. It is why I don't take people seriously and I do not trust them. I don't just lack trust for the people at large when it comes to amending our constitution, I lack trust for senators when they make solemn promises, because the promises are like words written in water. They are as trustworthy as a sharpened stake on which a person who is crippled will lean for support. That sharpened stake will pierce your palm and it will teach you a lesson. We are talking about...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.