

you know what that is, for those of you who don't, it's a blood disease and they have to spend the rest of their pregnancy on their back and taking care of themselves and they cannot work. The least we can do is this. And I would give the rest of my time to Senator Beutler. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Chambers, to speak to the Pedersen amendment. Excuse me, I'm sorry. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: "Secretary of State" Robak, members of the Legislature, I think there comes a point in time in some of these debates when I think we all understand that there is a compromise that needs to be worked out. And we used to do very well in this state in helping people in this particular situation. Some people view it as a matter of compassion, other people view it as protecting the workforce of tomorrow, taking care of the children. In any event, we used to fund this, as I understand it, for the entire nine months of the pregnancy. Well there came a point in time when we couldn't do that anymore and there came a point in time when we didn't have a clear consensus as to whether that was the right thing to do for such a long period of time. And you've heard from Senator Pirsch that today a lot of arguments that cause you to stop and think about what is the correct thing to do. But I guess from my perspective I'm not willing to say we ought not give any help at all in this situation. It just seems to me that you're coming too close to the time of birth, too close to the time of help, that there is some danger that children will not be cared for the way that they should be cared for in that period of time before they are born, and that we ought to, unless we are so fiscally strapped that we cannot possibly do it, we ought to reach out and help a little bit and continue at least in part the help that we have traditionally given in these kinds of situations. And so I support and cosponsored this amendment that Senator Pedersen has offered, suggesting to you that at least for this moment in time, as long as the federal funds are there to assist and as long as we are not so fiscally strapped that we need to consider other alternative expenditures, we ought to continue at least a minimal amount of help, and that is to help as we have in the last couple of years for the last three months of the pregnancy. So I support the amendment and I hope the body is willing to settle for at least this minimal amount of help for young women in this situation. Thank you.