

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I rise in opposition to Tim Hall's amend...Senator Hall's amendment. From some of the studies that I have done on some of the sex education classes that go on across Nebraska, I have gotten some of the statistics for monies that are already going into a lot of these areas, and I've checked with Senator Wehrbein on this too. And I seem to remember, although I don't have the figures right in front of me to prove this, but I will try to attempt to get them, that about \$3 million, approximately, goes into these areas right now in the State of Nebraska, probably from...most or all of that money from the federal government, and then in addition to that, you have monies that every school district is spending for sex education, and also Senator Hall handed out a three page handout on family planning services, and I find it interesting, some of this language, it talks about how many women are between the ages of 13 and 44 at risk for unintended pregnancies. It is a real interesting way to put that we are of an age that we could get pregnant. The women, since time began, between those ages, I guess between menstruation and menopause, is what you are talking about here, we are all at risk for unintended pregnancies now, and now family planning services, because we've got all these at-risk women out there, just needing their services, need another almost half a million dollars to beef up their services. And if you read through this, some of this will go to Depo-Provera because it's more expensive than oral contraceptives, that's the shots that you can give now, it's \$22 compared to 4.50 for oral contraceptives for three months. These are the types of things that they list that they might be needing, and in answer to Senator Beutler's question, these are a lot of the areas that they suggested the money go to but they also say that this council, Family Planning Council, recommends that appropriations not be tied to a specific area or services but that the State Health Department be allowed the flexibility to allocate resources after further study. So, basically, you are going to, if you vote for this amendment, hand over that money to the Department of Health and they can put it wherever they want to. And I think you are right, they need to go through the same channels as every other department goes through when asking for monies, and I am not playing favorites here. I said the same thing with Senator Engel's bill on the 6 million, if we are going to turn that into the economic development money, I did, if we are going to turn