

average woman who finds herself in need of assistance thinks, well, I'll get the assistance, then I'll have another baby and then I'll get more. I just don't believe that the average woman thinks that way. There may be some exceptions. Maybe there are some women who think, well, this is a great way to live, I'll do this. But most of them don't want to live that way. They do not want to get that assistance check. They don't want to have to go to the grocery store and use food stamps. They don't want to have to be on Medicaid. They want to be independent and they've made a mistake, so why are we judging them. This is a judgment issue. We are judging them and saying, you're a bad person, you may not have another baby. The other thing, as I said earlier, we're saying because they're poor, they may not have a baby. So I just...I'm going to vote for Senator Dierks' amendment. I think we should adopt it. That and the two-year limit are the two things that I think are pernicious about this bill because the two-year limit cuts off when the...and I know that the committee amendments helped on some of these things but it cuts off when the...at a very crucial time for most of these women when they are coming to the point where they may get a degree, an associate degree or another one, which will enable them to get a job that will mean independence for them and their families. So those two things and this one in particular I think it's demeaning to say to them...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR CROSBY:** ...after they become pregnant, sorry, that baby cannot be covered. And it's the baby. I'll say in closing, all of us feel a real emotional time right now for the people in Oklahoma City. And why? Because so many children were killed yesterday. What are we doing here? We're hurting children. So think about these children in Nebraska that depend on this kind of assistance to get a good start in life and to survive. And if we help them, if we help the mother gain independence, I hope that what we're doing, and I firmly believe what we do when we do that, is we break that cycle. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Crosby. In the north balcony, excuse me, we have 63 fourth graders from Engleman School in Grand Island and their teacher. They're here from Senator Schmitt's district. Would you please stand and be recognized. Senator Day, followed by Senators Beutler, Schimek, Pirsch, Jensen, Bohlke, Lindsay, Chambers and Dierks.