

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise in opposition to the Dierks amendment and in support of the waivers the way we have them. And, Senator Chambers, I can't tell you everybody why they support this and why they're acting this way. I will tell you I support this not to lower the birthrate and not to save money. I honestly support this to help the women who are on ADC. To me, there is an undercurrent here, which I find very demeaning, that these women cannot be responsible for their actions for two years, that they're too stupid, that they intend to jump into bed with anyone that comes along and I don't think that's the fact. I think what we need to do for these women who find themselves in a situation and recognize they already have a child and suddenly they are left alone, their self-esteem is low, I think we need to take them and for two years say, this is the time you need to concentrate on yourself and your child or your children that you have. Let's take these two years and work on you and get you around. One of the ways we have to do this is you have to be responsible for your actions. This is not the time that you need to bring another child into the world. And I think that is the message we're sending, just for these two years let's take care of you and get you going where you need to go. I think that is extremely important. I think that is the message that we are sending to them. Now I know things happen and there may be women that get pregnant during this time and have another child. And although Senator Dierks glossed over the things and said they weren't there, remember, the only thing that is taken away from them, and it's not taken away from them, the only thing they don't get is that additional \$71. If they're in a relationship, be responsible to look at that partner you're in the relationship with. If they are willing to pay child support, you can have all that child support. You know, we still give them the Medicaid. They still get the food stamps. It is just that \$71 is the only thing and I think it's a very important message. Take care of yourself. Take care of your children you have now. Let's get you on the road to self-sufficiency. And, to me, that's what we're sending with this message. We're not trying to lower the birthrate. We're not trying to hurt children. That's the last thing in the world that we want to do, and I don't think we do that. But we have to take care of these women and I think they're smart enough to do this. I think they need a little help and I think that's what we intend to do with this. And I think it's something that we definitely need to leave in with our waivers. I think it's an important message that we're sending and I really do not believe we are hurting children with