

this. If I thought that it was hurting children, there is no way I would support it. But I do not see that. So I would urge you to oppose Senator Dierks' amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I would like to also oppose the amendment and support the...Senator Bohlke in her position. And I also do not believe that the position that I'm espousing is against these women. I feel that it's very much for these women seen as a group, as a whole. And I go back again to something we're fighting in two or three different areas right now at this time in our history. We are fighting to defend the welfare system as it is. It's not an entitlement, you know. When the public loses confidence in this system, the system goes. There's nothing that protects this, except the will of the public. And, in my opinion, one of the things that inflames the public most is when they are helping out and financing a family and the family expands at a time when they cannot afford to expand. Decisions are made by women on welfare apparently from time to time that the public would not expect their own daughters to make, their own wives to make, that they would not make in their own families. We are all confined by our economic status. We all have to act in accordance with our means and our ability to support. And we all have a responsibility to support the children we do have. I think sometimes that's not emphasized enough, but the public knows it, and the public's angry about it and they're not going to continue to support a welfare system if they don't see us sharpening up and making life realistic, the same way that it's realistic for each and everyone of them out in society. And, yes, they can make the decision to have an additional child after ten months on welfare, that's their right. But it's not their right to have the public support an unsupportable decision. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Pirsch, Jensen, Bohlke, Lindsay, Chambers and Dierks.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I...this is the strangest debate because I find myself at odds with a lot of people I usually agree with. There are issues that are all mixed up in this that probably shouldn't be. And I think that Senator Day and Senator Beutler and Senator Bohlke have all made some very powerful arguments and I agree