

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...what any of the either sides are going to say. That's why I think it's a good amendment and I appreciate the...Senator Bohlike and Senator Lindsay working their differences out.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Dierks, your light is next, followed by Senators Chambers and Lindsay.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to run by you the cost of this program. If you figure for the first year, you're talking about, according to the averages, 151 children in Omaha, and that will be the first place that it's done, in the Omaha area, for one year, and then the next year it takes across the state. And they figure that the Omaha area will have about 151 children and then when it goes statewide it will be about 302, double that. The cost, at \$71 per child, amounts to, when you figure in the match rate for the state, it amounts to \$51,000, that's for a year for Omaha. And so for 302 children for the next year it would be a little over \$100,000. And when I visited with fiscal, with the fiscal people, they tell me that they wouldn't even change the fiscal note on this legislation were this amendment to be adopted. Because it's such a nebulous figure, it's hard for them to get a handle on and they don't think it's going to make that much of a difference. So the fiscal note on this bill is not going to change if this amendment is adopted. Actually, we've talked about a lot of things and a lot of issues and we have a lot of good ideas, I think, presented to us this morning and again this afternoon. One thing that I wanted to touch on a little bit was when we talk about taking the \$71 away from a child who is born after the parent has been on welfare for ten months, we not only make it difficult for that child for diapers and those necessary items but we also make it difficult for the children that are already in that family because the money that they would normally get and still will get is going to have to be divided among this...for this other child, the new child. So I think that we...there's...it's a two-edged sword. A question I have is for you...for those of you who think that...who are in opposition to this amendment is if...if a mother is on welfare and becomes pregnant because of failure of a contraceptive device, what...what reasonable thing is there for her to do? The responsible thing for her to do is if she doesn't want to carry this child, would not want to have the child, what next