

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hall, members, I just want to respond to one comment that Senator Bohlke raised, talking about people that have children that are not on public assistance and that they're not asking the state to help support them. I guess I would point out that each time you have another child you get another exemption and that the...when you apply that to the tax rate that under the federal tax that you would save per child roughly equates to the amount of public assistance that you would get for the additional child. So there is, I guess, a financial incentive, which is why everybody goes out and has kids, of course, because you get another exemption. That's about how much money you save and that makes it worthwhile. Clearly, money is not a motivating factor there. The second thing I would like to talk about is getting back to that issue of responsible decision making. When we talk about responsible decision making, encouraging responsible decision making, encouraging family planning and encouraging those on public assistance to engage in responsible behavior, I have a concern that I think it's...I've heard that argued here on the floor repeatedly by some of those who are supporting or opposing this amendment that contraception fails, that women do get raped and that pregnancies do occur. And if those occur to these poor women, what would be the responsible decision they should make at that point? What would be the responsible behavior that we're trying to encourage? I think at that point that maybe the issue is the responsible...the responsible position to take at that point is to terminate the pregnancy. And is that the responsible decision we're trying to encourage? And I don't think it is. I don't think, in those situations, that the effect of excluding that additional 71 bucks per month is going to encourage responsible decision making because, from those supporting the bill, I have heard that argument on this floor that sometime it ain't your fault. If we're going to be consistent on that, then we cannot expect that this policy is going to encourage the responsible behavior or else the responsible decision we're looking for may not be the one that the majority of people on this floor agree with. And I...so I think it finally comes back to when I think we strip away everything the issue is are we going to save the state money? And I think that is the goal of this...of the bill. I think that is the goal of defeating this amendment. And if that's the case, if that's the case, that doesn't mean you shouldn't vote against it, but I can't, I have to vote for the amendment. I have to vote against that proposal simply because it...my priority would be that this isn't where I think we ought to be