

them. I am sorry. I was so anxious to hear Senator Lindsay's comments, I forgot to pause for that. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This would be an appropriate time to waive off so you couldn't hear those comments, but I won't do that. The...picking up what we have been discussing, I think it is very clear we are dealing with poor...poor women, but even if we are not dealing with those who absolutely cannot afford anything, let's look at the policy behind it, and that is the question of the value of prenatal care. Prenatal care, for...for those of you I think most of you are already aware of it, prenatal care generally is much more cost efficient in the long run than is the denial of prenatal care, which ends up with premature births which cost an enormous amount of money, much more so than the prenatal care. When you are talking about prenatal care, in the scheme of things, you are talking about a very small amount of money that is necessary for that care, yet you look at one premature baby, who is hooked up to all sorts of machines and with the types of care that may be necessary, you easily...easily go above \$100,000 and oftentimes, much higher than that. So the cost savings by eliminating some from prenatal care can be eaten very quickly in the one or two preventable premature births. So, regardless, regardless of whether you think poor women are getting too much or too little or whatever, look at it from the state's viewpoint in are we making a wise choice in the long run or even in the short run because as soon as you are going to cut off, it is less than a fiscal year away before we would start seeing some of the results. But if we can prevent one or two premature births with this expensive Medicaid covered care, we will have paid for what we are...for the entire program, and that I think is important to note, if we can prevent that. And I think everything that I am familiar with, and I am sure Senator Pirsch will correct me if I am wrong, but everything that I am...that I've read says that prenatal care does prevent substantially or, excuse me, not prevent, reduce substantially the number of premature births. So I would...I would urge you when you are considering this amendment to just consider whether it is a wise policy fiscally for the state, and are we being penny wise and pound foolish in the adoption of the amendment. I would urge you to vote against AM1113.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I don't